The Week in Review

This past week, the General Assembly reconvened on a brief Easter recess. The state remained under a state of emergency due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The General Assembly, however, focused on several key legislative issues:

Legislative Update April 21, 2021

Relief Efforts and Action

**High Achieving Talent Scholarships**

The General Assembly passed Senate Bill 431, which provides financial assistance to students attending high-achieving public schools. The program offers scholarships for up to four years for students who meet certain academic criteria.

**Biden Administration Introduces Broadening Repeal**

The Biden Administration introduced legislation to repeal the national emergency declared by President Trump, which included the authority to impose tariffs on imported goods. The bill seeks to end the national emergency and roll back some of the policies implemented during the Trump administration.

**School Reopens Amidst Controversy**

Despite ongoing concerns about the spread of COVID-19, school reopening plans are underway in some areas. Some districts have announced plans to return to full in-person learning, while others continue to operate on a hybrid model. The decision to reopen schools has sparked debates about the balance between public health and educational continuity.

**County Commission Falls in Line**

A county commission has approved a plan to close a rural school district's only high school, citing financial difficulties. The decision has sparked concern among parents and community members, who are calling for a moratorium on school closures.

**Office of Early Childhood Education**

As the state continues to implement the Office of Early Childhood Education, the General Assembly is considering revisions to the program to ensure its effectiveness. The office aims to improve early childhood education by providing resources and support to families and educators.

**Private Charter School Legislation**

A bill to expand the state's private charter school program has been introduced. The legislation would allow more schools to receive state funding and expand the program's reach. The bill has sparked controversy among some educators and parents, who argue that it undermines public education.

**School Support Funding Bill**

The General Assembly has passed a bill to provide additional funding to schools for supporting teachers and students. The funding will be used to support the implementation of the new school year's teaching and learning strategies.

**Increase Teacher Supplemental/Electronic Notice**

The General Assembly has approved a bill to increase the teacher supplemental and electronic notice for the upcoming school year. The bill will provide additional funding to support teachers and schools in preparing for the new academic year.

**Modest UNC University Salaries**

The General Assembly has passed a bill to modestly increase university salaries. The increase is intended to help retain top faculty and staff and improve the competitiveness of UNC institutions in attracting top talent.

Legislative Calendar

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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Senate Executive Oversight</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>General Assembly in Session</td>
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North Carolina General Assembly

- **Bill Numbers:**
  - HB 768
  - HB 1689
  - SB 569

- **Committee Assignments:**
  - Senate Education
  - Senate Finance
  - Senate Appropriations

- **Public Outreach:**
  - Contact information available online.

- **Subcommittees:**
  - Education Finance
  - Higher Education

In conclusion, the General Assembly continues to address a range of issues, from education to economic support, as it navigates the challenges posed by the pandemic.