GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

Senate Bill 168, "AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL, CONFORMING, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND ADDING A PSYCHIATRIC PHYSICIAN PRIVILEGE EXCEPTION TO CRIMES AGAINST JUVENILES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS."

Senate Bill 168 includes a provision to change the handling of public records by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner which could have the unintended consequence of limiting transparency in death investigations. While I believe neither the Department of Health and Human Services which proposed it, nor the General Assembly which unanimously passed it had any ill intent, the concerns that have since been raised make it clear this provision should not become law.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

Roy Cooper
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina Senate on this the □ day of July 2020, at □: □ □ for reconsideration by that body.
SECTION 4.1. Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective October 1, 2020.
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 26th day of June, 2020.

Philip E. Berger
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Tim Moore
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Roy Cooper
Governor

Approved ______________m. this ______________ day of ______________, 2020

Received from the Governor
July 6, 2020, 7:16 p.m.
Sarah Holland