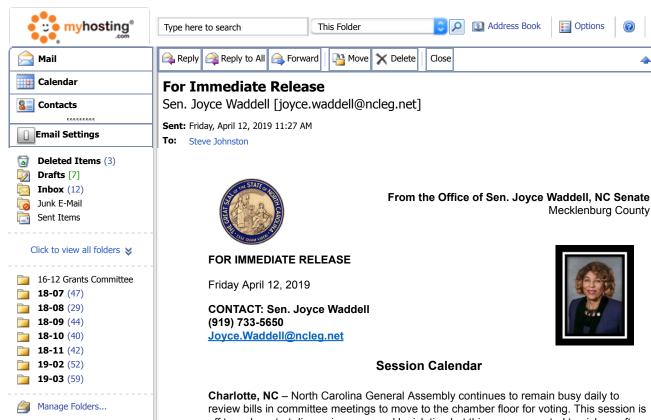
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Charlotte, NC – North Carolina General Assembly continues to remain busy daily to review bills in committee meetings to move to the chamber floor for voting. This session is off to a slow start discussing proposed legislation but things are expected to pick up after May 9th crossover deadline, which is the last day for a bill to pass out of the chamber it was introduced and move forward to the opposite chamber. Some of the bills on the calendar that passed from the Senate to be considered in the House included:

Senate Bill 343, Changes to Education reports, makes various changes including, repeals of certain reports, and modifications of information to be reported such as combines two reports on students with disabilities into one report that would be due annually on October 15.

Senate bill 227, Broaden Charter School Sibling Priority, would include siblings who apply to the charter school for admission in the same school year and children of persons employed to work full-time for the charter school. This bill passed unanimously in the Senate and is moving to the House for a vote.

Senate Bill 154, Allow Sports/Horse Race Wagering Tribal Lands, is an act that would extend games that may be legally conducted on Indian lands. Current law only includes gaming machines, live table games, and video games. This bill will add Sports wagering defined as the placing of wages on the outcome of professional and collegiate sports contests; and Horse race wagering on a thoroughbred, harness or other racing of horses to the game list.

Senate Bill 199, Child Sex Abuse/Strengthen Laws, this bill would include a mandate reporting certain crimes against children to law enforcement. In addition, authorize an investigative grand jury to convene for certain crimes against a child and gang offenses.

Senate Bill 250, Records of Excusals for Jury Duty, allows a chief district court judge to delegate hearing jury excuses to the clerk of court, require clerks to maintain records of individuals asking to be excused from jury duty due to disqualification, and, in some instances, share those records with the State Board of Elections.

"We are working diligently to follow session rules and guidelines to give each bill careful consideration before being presented on the floor. We are expecting things to move quickly after the crossover deadline," Said Senator Joyce Waddell

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