

*****SPAM*** For Immediate Release**



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greetings:

As we move into the end of session and wrap up redistricting, we find North Carolina in a good financial position to focus on the well being of its citizens.

We have been inundated by all things COVID and now we are heading into flu season. There are vaccines for both to help decrease the spread.

We also have to put measures in place to make sure there is not an influx of citizens becoming homeless after the eviction moratorium.

There is assistance out here to assist, but we must spread the information into the community.

Joyce Waddell

Highlighted Bills

HB 531 Timeshare Act would

- *Eliminate bond requirements for applicants seeking certification by the North Carolina Real Estate Commission as a real estate education provider.*
- *Substantially rewrite the North Carolina Time Share Act.*
- *Make conforming and technical changes to related statutory provisions.*

This bill passed in the Senate and is now heading to the Governor's Office.

Bills Vetoed by the Governor

HB 805 - [Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder](#)

HB 324 - [Ensuring Dignity & Nondiscrimination/Schools](#)

SB 636 - [Donor Privacy](#)

HB 398 - [Pistol Purchase Permit Repeal](#)

HB 352 - [Hotel Safety Issues](#)

HB 729 - [Charter Schools Omnibus](#)

SB 116 - [Putting North Carolina Back to Work Act](#)

HB 453 - [Human Life Nondiscrimination Act/No Eugenics](#)

Refugee Settlement

Six cities in North Carolina will accept refugees from Afghanistan in the coming months — a move that will more than double the number of Afghan refugees who have settled in the state over the past decade. About 1,169 refugees should begin arriving over the next 30 days and continue for about six months, said the senior director for economic security at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Over the past decade, North Carolina has accepted 1,089 Afghan refugees — about 70 have come in the past year. Those refugees leaving now are fleeing the country since the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the Taliban's takeover. Across the state, the director said the groups are "ready to welcome and support all of these new North Carolinians." Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham, Asheville, Greensboro and New Bern will be host cities.

The state has accepted about 20,000 refugees from 88 countries over the past decade. About 23% have come from Burma, 16% from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9% from Bhutan, 8% from Cuba and 8% from Iraq.

Although the senior director said there has been "really positive support" for the new Afghans, politicians in the state have not always been eager to accept people fleeing war and persecution. Saying at the time that his "primary duty as governor is to keep the citizens of North Carolina safe," he said he wanted to halt the flow of Syrian refugees until he was satisfied with the vetting process. Although the request was condemned by human rights advocates, other North Carolina politicians, including a NC GOP U.S. Senator, also called for halting the refugee program for Syrians.

Pregnancy Centers

North Carolina is one of 14 states that sends taxpayer dollars to "crisis pregnancy centers," facilities that offer pregnancy tests and

ultrasounds but also seek to dissuade pregnant people from getting abortions. This year's North Carolina House budget includes about \$9 million in funding to crisis pregnancy centers, compared to the Senate budget which allocates about \$3 million. Advocates, providers and some Democratic politicians have criticized the allocation of funds for further eroding reproductive health care, while Republicans and anti-abortion advocates argue the funds bolster community programs that help pregnant people.

The organizations themselves argue that they give someone who is pregnant access to information and resources to make the choice of whether to continue the pregnancy or not, with the goal of preventing that person from getting an abortion.

While many of the earmarks for crisis pregnancy centers are direct grants that do not specify what exactly what the money will be used for, some funds allocated in the House budget for crisis pregnancy centers specify that they are to purchase ultrasound equipment, such as the \$400,000 in appropriations that would go to a women's center and \$255,000 to another pregnancy support center for renovations and equipment.

Election Mailings

A number of voter advocacy and political organizations have begun to send mass mailings to voters and prospective voters across North Carolina as the 2021 municipal election season approaches. In a news release, North Carolina election officials said they want to remind voters of the following:

- The N.C. State Board of Elections and county boards of elections rarely send mass mailings.
- Those who have questions or concerns about a mailing should

contact the organization responsible for it. Some mailings will include the organization's contact information, as well as "unsubscribe" information, allowing voters to opt-out of future mailings.

- The N.C. State Board of Elections encourages all voters to routinely check their registration status and details using the state board's "Voter Search" tool online at ncsbe.gov.

The regular voter registration deadline for Nov. 2 municipal elections is Oct. 8. Those who miss this deadline may register during early voting through same-day registration at an early voting site if the municipality permits absentee-by-mail and in-person early voting.

Driverless Delivery

A bill that passed a Senate committee on Tuesday would allow driverless delivery wagons operate on North Carolina streets while setting some ground rules for them. The Domino's pizza chain is already testing such vehicles in Houston and demonstrates the technology in some of its television commercials. Many have questioned when the commercials, which continue to air on TV, will happen in our state. The bill has already cleared the House with little opposition and could be before the full Senate later this week.

Under the proposal, the vehicles couldn't go faster than 40 mph, would have to be fully insured and must follow all traffic laws. They also would have to pull over and let drivers pass them once five or more cars are behind them. The vehicles are fully autonomous – no one is remotely steering them unless they get into trouble – and can carry only cargo. They use navigation technology and LIDAR, a remote sensing method that uses laser pulses to measure distance, to travel along surface streets.

If North Carolina is among the first states to allow the driverless delivery vehicles there's a good chance they'll be deployed here earlier rather than later. This technology is in full test mode to make sure it is a safe option.

September 22 marked the first day of fall. The leaves will soon be in full fall mode and we will be raking our yards in no time, many have already started. The changes in temperature will come soon enough and we will be covered in jackets and coats rolling into winter. The warmer weather is much more enjoyable to me, and I wish everyone a safe and uneventful rest of the year. Everyone is urged to consider getting a flu shot.

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