

SPAM Latest Updates from the NCGA



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
Date 2021-10-01 16:01

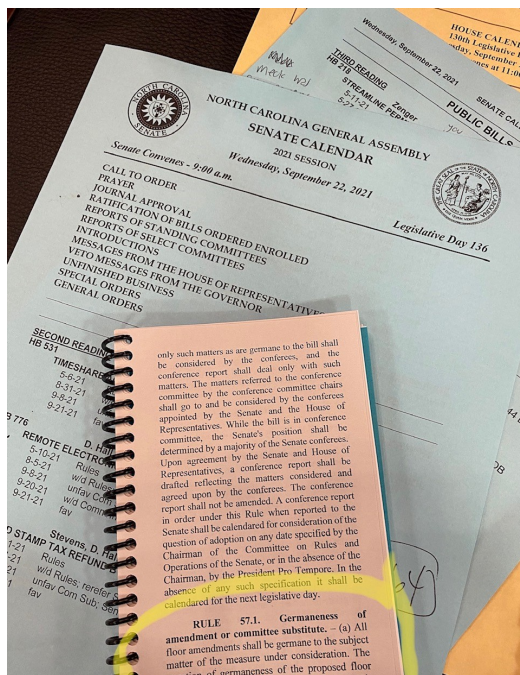
Natasha
MARCUS
NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

October 1, 2021

Noteworthy Votes



Below are a few noteworthy bills I voted on over the past two weeks. You can find a full list of bills I voted on [here](#).

Yes votes:

- **HB531, Timeshare Act Changes/Education Providers Bond Repeal.** Eliminates bond requirements for applicants seeking certification by NC Real Estate Commission as a real estate education provider and makes revisions to the NC Time Share Act.
- **HB797, Deed Stamp Tax Refund by Hearing Officer.** Authorizes a county board of commissioners to designate the county finance officer as the hearing officer for refund requests of the deed stamp tax.

No votes:

- **HB776, Remote Notarization/Government Transparency.** The original version of this bill modernized our notary laws to make the process more accessible for remote use and had approval from the Secretary of State's office. I planned to vote YES. However, a controversial amendment was introduced at the last minute that was unrelated to the bill. The amendment uses the language of a completely other bill ([HB64](#)) to make certain government employees' personnel performance and dismissal records public. That bill is strongly opposed by state employees and privacy advocates and I had already voted against it when it came before the Senate. I called for a point of order under Senate Rule 57.1 (germaneness), but my objection was rejected by the President Pro Tempore and the amended bill was called for a vote. The Rules should matter. Given the inappropriate amendment, I had to vote no.

Mecklenburg Delegation Listening Session Next Thursday



The Mecklenburg County Delegation to the NC General Assembly is hosting our third virtual listening session of the year on **Thursday, October 7th at 7pm**. We want to hear from you about what is on your mind, what you would like us to know about your community, and what you would like us to work on. This is **your opportunity to talk to the seventeen of us and for us to listen**. Attendees must sign up in advance.

[Sign Up Here](#)

Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee Updates



Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to attend the Redistricting Committee's public hearings and to share your thoughts on the NCGA's online portal over the past few weeks to **make your voices heard about the redistricting process**. I have taken notes on your ideas and concerns and will be sure to keep them in mind as the process continues. Please note that I share your concerns that there is only one hearing scheduled once the draft maps are released (which will be in Raleigh), and am advocating for more meetings, in places around the state, as well as virtual options due to the pandemic.

You can listen to recordings from the previous public hearings [here](#) and you can submit written comments through the [online portal](#).

Senate Judiciary Committee Updates



Below are some of the bills we discussed in [Judiciary Committee](#) over the past 2 weeks:

- **[SB424](#), Private Protective Services Licensing Modifications**. Makes a number of changes to the law regulating the private protective services profession per recommendations from the Department of Public Safety.
- **[HB761](#), Police Vehicle and Equipment Protection Act**. Increases the penalty for

breaking or entering into a vehicle owned by a law enforcement agency and creates two new felony offenses for theft of equipment owned by a law enforcement agency.

State Budget Updates



We are **one step closer to having a state budget**. Yesterday GOP House and Senate leadership announced that they have finally agreed on a version to send to the Governor for his input. The new fiscal year began on July 1st, so the process is very slow this year, taking longer than ever before. But we are grateful to see some progress. Keep an eye on my social media for more updates. Watch [this video](#) from the NC Budget and Tax Center for more information on the budget.

Bills I Support That Have Been Signed into Law by the Governor



Below is a condensed list of some of the bills I supported this session that have been signed into law by Governor Cooper. A full list of bills the Governor has signed can be found [here](#). Additionally, [here](#) is an article with more details on some of these new laws taking effect today.

- **[SB99](#), Clarify Law on Theft of Catalytic Converters.** Makes theft of a catalytic converter from a motor vehicle a Class I felony, and modifies the laws related to the purchase of catalytic converters. You can read more about this bill [here](#).
- **[SB257](#), Medication Cost Transparency Act.** Requires pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) to be licensed, adds consumer protections to the General Statute, and restricts PBMs from prohibiting pharmacies from taking certain actions, and establish rules for claim overpayments and PBM networks.
- **[HB447](#), The Jeff Rieg Law/Patients Religious Rights.** Requires hospitals to allow clergy members to visit admitted patients who wish to be visited by a clergy

member, despite any disaster or emergency declarations. Clergy members would be subject to health screenings and adherence to infection control procedures and hospitals would be able to restrict visitation by clergy members who did not pass the health screening.

- **HB890, ABC Omnibus Legislation.** Bipartisan bill that modernizes and changes the laws concerning ABC stores, distilleries, and other alcohol-related statutes. It retains state control of alcohol sales, but allows new flexibility including allowing a) distilleries to operate more like wineries, b) online ordering and delivery of alcohol to restaurants, and c) outdoor alcohol sales by restaurants that have expanded to parking lots and other outdoor dining spaces. More about the bill [here](#).

Upcoming Virtual Town Hall



Join me for my Fall Town Hall on **Tuesday, October 19th at 7pm**. You can sign up at the link below. I'll provide updates on the legislative session including my bills, the budget, and redistricting, and answer any questions you may have. **Be sure to sign up in advance to get the log-in information emailed to you.**

Sign Up Here

NC Retired Governmental Employees' Association Charlotte District Meeting



It was an honor to join the [NC Retired Governmental Employees' Association](#) for their annual meeting in Charlotte. I used my short time at the podium to acknowledge the **need for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) and affordable healthcare benefits for state and local government retirees**. The cost of everything is going up, but retirement benefits are stagnant. Our state cannot recruit talent without decent retirement benefits.

State Funding for Parks and Environmental Projects in Senate District 41



State agencies have begun releasing their annual reports for 2020-2021, and I am happy to report that **various environmental programs across Senate District 41 have received funds**. They include:

- \$285,000 to **Beaty Park** in Davidson (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund -- Department of Natural and Cultural Resources)
- \$150,000 to **Ranson Rosedale Nature Park** in Huntersville (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund -- Department of Natural and Cultural Resources). To learn more about the new park click [here](#).
- \$10,700 to **Lake Norman** (Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund/DEQ) to survey the lake and supply grass carp to control hydrilla
- \$1,500 to **Mountain Island Lake** (Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund/DEQ) to survey the lake to control hydrilla

DEQ Online Informational Meeting on Asbestos in Davidson





Initial EPA Sites Map

Department of Environmental Quality



1st Public Meeting
December 6, 2016



DEQ's Division of Waste Management is hosting an online public information meeting on **October 4th at 6:30pm to discuss redevelopment plans of the Davidson Depot property** (former Carolina Asbestos Corporation site). Staff will provide updates on the Brownsfields Agreement, land-use restrictions, and long-term redevelopment plans. There will be a Q&A session following the presentation. Please find the log-in information for the event below:

- Join the WebEx [here](#)
- Event number: 2428 216 7140
- Event password: bf104 (23104 from phones)
- Dial in option: 1-415-655-0003 Access Code: 242 821 67140

There will be a Q&A session following the presentation. More information about the Davidson Depot (former Carolina Asbestos Company) site can be found [here](#).

Mecklenburg County's HOMES Program Accepting Applications



Mecklenburg County homeowners can apply to receive benefits from the [HOMES Program](#) until October 31, 2021. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

Helping Out Mecklenburg's Homeowners with Economic Support (HOMES) is a public assistance program designed to help low to moderate income qualified Mecklenburg County homeowners keep their homes by providing financial assistance. The amount granted will be equal to 25% of the Mecklenburg County tax amount on the last available tax bill, not to exceed \$340.

Eligible homeowners must:

- Live in Mecklenburg County
- Own a residential property or occupy a property with a qualifying life estate
- Have lived in this primary residence for the past three consecutive years
- Not have more than one delinquent property tax bill in the last three years
- Have a total household income that does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income set by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For example, a family of four's household income limit is \$67,350.

Submit applications by **Sunday, October 31, 2021**. You can apply online [here](#). If you need help navigating the application process you can call **980-314-4HOME (4663)** or email 4Homes@mecknc.gov

American Rescue Plan Funding Survey and Public Hearing



The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners is calling on all County residents to participate in the upcoming engagements on **how the County should invest \$215 million in COVID-19 relief funds**. Visit LivableMeck.com to complete the funding survey online by October 20.

There will be a virtual public hearing on October 5th at 6:30pm. You can sign up [here](#) or by calling the County Clerk's office at 980-314-2912.

Survey on the Future of the Historic Latta Site



Please consider completing the online [survey](#) designed to gather feedback from the community about **the future of the Historic Latta site**. The Historic Latta site is currently closed to the public following a controversy. Mecklenburg County is currently assessing future partnerships and best practices for the site. The survey will be live until October 22.

NC Child Fatality Taskforce







The [NC Child Fatality Taskforce](#) has been meeting over the past few weeks to



provide research and legislative updates to the public and members of the NCGA. The Taskforce a legislative study commission that **examines the causes of child death and makes recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on how to prevent child death, prevent abuse and neglect, and support the safety and well-being of children.** The presenters discussed the unfortunate rise of child abuse/neglect emergency department visits between 2019 and 2020, the rise of child suicide deaths, and the rise of child firearm deaths and injuries. You can read their full presentation [here](#).

Unity in Community Event

Guest speakers

Natasha Marcus North Carolina Senate District 41 (Mecklenburg)	Jennifer De La Jara At-Large Member Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education	Beth Thompson Asst. Superintendent Academics, Charlotte- Mecklenburg Schools	Brandy Nelson, Ph.D. Executive Director, Learning & Teaching, Secondary Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
			

UNITY IN COMMUNITY

I was honored to be on the panel of speakers this week for Unity in Community's "Shaping Education: Decision & Impact" Zoom discussion. We explained how **education policy is crafted and enacted in North Carolina**, including the roles of federal, state and local elected representatives. Part 2 of the discussion will be on October 20th at 6:30pm. Follow Unity in Community on Facebook, Instagram or their [website](#) for more information.

Update on Mecklenburg County's LME/MCO Realignment with Alliance Health



Mecklenburg County's management of Medicaid and uninsured benefits for behavior health will transition from Cardinal Innovations to Alliance Health on **December 15, 2021**, according to a timetable established by the DHHS. Alliance currently serves Wake, Durham, Johnston and Cumberland counties. Alliance has experience working with urban areas such as Mecklenburg County and approaches behavioral health with a collaborative approach. **All impacted members will be contacted by Alliance in advance of the transition.** Currently authorized services will continue and healthcare providers that are currently providing services to Members will be offered a contract to continue those services through Alliance. It is the intent of both the County and Alliance to ensure a seamless transition from Cardinal to Alliance and prevent disruptions in services for Members and providers. Current members will not have to take steps to enroll with Alliance. **If you are currently receiving mental health, substance use disorder, or I/DD services through Cardinal, you will be automatically enrolled with Alliance when the realignment takes place on December 15, 2021.**

More details on this realignment can be found [here](#) and a FAQ section is [here](#).

Legislators from Across the Country Sign Amicus Brief in Support of *Roe v. Wade*



I am proud to be among the 897 state legislators from across the country who signed onto this amicus brief in support of codifying the protections of *Roe v. Wade*. We must do more to **protect reproductive rights** in this country. You can learn more about the brief [here](#).

Tour of Charlotte McColl Center for Art + Innovation



One of the perks of being a State Senator is getting special guided tours of places like the McColl Center in Charlotte, where they have a four **artists in residence creating new works for the public to enjoy**. Good news: You can go too -- admission is free!

**Learn More about the McColl Center
for Art + Innovation Here**

Ovarian Cancer Briefing



On Monday various medical and cancer advocacy organizations came together for a congressional briefing in honor of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. The presentation included members of congress, physicians, patients, and advocates all underscoring the importance of educating the public on ovarian cancer and the need for more research funding. **Ovarian cancer ranks fifth in cancer deaths among women**, and causes more deaths each year than any other gynecological cancer. Unfortunately, more than 60% of cases are diagnosed at a late stage, which is why education and advocacy on symptoms is so important. You can learn more about ovarian cancer [here](#).

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to receive future editions, please subscribe at [this link](#) or email me at Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov and let me know you want to subscribe to the biweekly newsletter.

Contact Our Office

Phone: (919) 715-3050

Email:

Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov

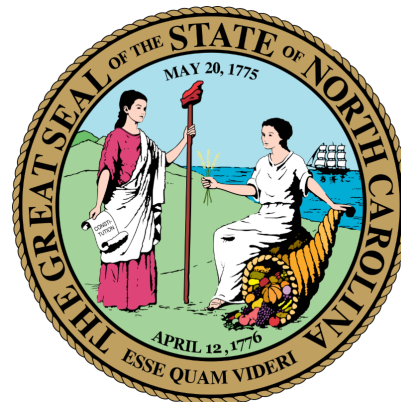
Jessica.Bolin@ncleg.gov

Mailing Address:

300 N. Salisbury Street,

Rm. 519

Raleigh, NC 27603



How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

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