

*****SPAM*** Latest Updates from the NCGA**



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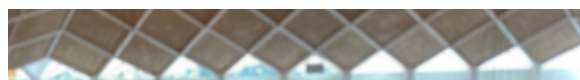


NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

December 3, 2021



Noteworthy Votes





The long session at the General Assembly finally came to an (almost official) close on **November 29th**, which was the **longest uninterrupted session in NC since at least 1965!** You can read more about the end of the session [here](#). Below are the final bills I voted on this session and you can find a full list of bills I voted on [here](#).

Yes votes:

- **[SB473](#), Enhance Local Government Transparency.** Requires the State Auditor to notify the Local Government Commission when an audit report is from a local government investigation and allows the commission to be involved in the audit process. Creates a new felony offense for public officers and employees who personally benefit financially from their position.
- **[HB334](#), Budget Technical Corrections.** Various technical corrections for the state budget.
- **[HB978](#), Modifications to the 2021 Appointments Bill.** Appoints persons to various public offices upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Includes appointment of 2 Mecklenburg County residents to the Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services and the Carolina Innovation Council.

No votes:

- **[SB725](#), Prohibit Private Money in Elections Admin (for concurrence).** Prohibits the State Board of Elections and county boards of elections from accepting charitable donations for conducting elections or paying poll workers. Ninety-seven counties across the state depended on these additional funds from various foundations in 2020 in order to conduct a safe and secure election. The money paid for single-use pens, PPE and hazard pay to poll workers. While I agree that private foundations should never be allowed to influence the outcome of our election (and there is no evidence that they did in 2020), it's unwise to preemptively cut off these donations when many counties cannot afford to run elections without them and the NCGA has not budgeted the additional funding we need to ensure elections are safe and secure.
- **[HB110](#), Landlord Submission of HOPE Application (Conference Report).** Allows a landlord to submit an application, on behalf of a tenant, to the Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions Program (HOPE). I voted no due to concerns raised by the Department of Public Safety that the bill will slow down the application process, as it would require HOPE to essentially create an entirely new process. Additionally, allowing landlords to apply will potentially increase the number of fraudulent applications, as a landlord does not necessarily know a

tenant's full financial history. There were better ways to address this situation and the bill sponsors should have worked with DPS instead of forcing through this bill.

- **HB118, Buncombe School Board Election.** Changes the Buncombe County School Board elections from at-large elections to district elections. I voted no because this bill is not supported by the Buncombe County Legislative Delegation, the Buncombe County School Board, or the Buncombe County Commissioners and voters impacted by this change were not given an opportunity to weigh in.
- **HB220, Choice of Energy/Modify Public Records/Technical Corrections.** Prohibits local governments from adopting any ordinance that prohibits connection, modification, or expansion of an energy service based on the type or source of energy to be delivered to the end-user of the energy service. I voted no because the bill takes away local governments' rights to decide how their buildings are powered and prevents them from transitioning away from gas power to electric and solar power. I believe we need to transition to clean energy as quickly as possible and HB220 does exactly the opposite. It's an ALEC-backed bill that is bad for the environment, local governments, and consumers.
- **HB294, Sale of Salvage Vehicles.** Allows a motor vehicle dealer to sell a used vehicle that has been issued a salvage certificate of title without inspections if the dealer has no knowledge of vehicle alterations or repairs and discloses that the vehicle was not inspected by the dealer. This bill eliminates current consumer protections that require a dealer to inspect and certify that a vehicle has passed inspection before selling it to a consumer. This bill allows the sale of vehicles that cannot pass state inspection and cannot be driven safely and will create many problems for consumers.

Extension of Longleaf Commitment Grant

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

APPENDICES



Governor Cooper recently announced that he will use federal COVID-19 aid to provide **\$31.5M in community college grant programs to high school graduates from low and middle-income families**. This extension of the [Longleaf Commitment Grant](#) will allow more students to pursue higher education and graduate debt-free. Community colleges across the state had record drops in enrollment in 2020 due to the pandemic, so this funding will also help these colleges see their enrollment numbers increase. You can read more about the grant program [here](#) and about how to apply for the various programs offered by Central Piedmont Community College [here](#).

Honeywell Charlotte Office Opening



Mecklenburg Delegation members with Governor Cooper, who was instrumental in Honeywell's relocation to Charlotte



Governor Cooper, Honeywell Chairman and CEO Darius Adamczyk, and Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles cut the ribbon



Selfie with Anne Lambert, representing the [Visual and Performing Arts Center](#), which is a recipient of one of Honeywell's grants

Earlier this week I attended [Honeywell's](#) **official global headquarters ribbon cutting in Charlotte**. Many community leaders and elected officials were in attendance, including

Governor Cooper, Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, and Honeywell Chairman and CEO Darius Adamczyk. It's great for Mecklenburg County and for our state that Honeywell has relocated its global headquarters here. In addition to creating about 750 jobs, Honeywell has already been a generous corporate citizen in our region with various charitable initiatives (including mass vaccine clinics and support to homeless shelters, small businesses, and the arts). You can watch the opening ceremony and read more about the office opening [here](#).

New NC Safety and Juvenile Justice Laws



I am proud to have supported many **bipartisan criminal justice reform measures** over the long session at the General Assembly. Governor Cooper recently signed many of these bills into law, and they went into effect on December 1st. Please find below some of the important changes to safety and juvenile justice laws:

- Ban correctional officers and sheriff's deputies from using physical restraints on pregnant women serving time or awaiting trial from their second trimester to a few weeks after delivery. Require the prisoner or inmate have routine visitations with their newborn if they remain incarcerated after the birth.
- Raise the minimum age that a child can be prosecuted in juvenile courts from 6 to 8. While I wish the age had been raised even more, this is a good first step.
- Require all law enforcement officers to report a fellow officer's use of excessive force to a superior officer within 72 hours of the incident.
- Alter police body camera footage laws to provide a victim's family more discretion to privately view the footage.
- Prohibit private cars to have been altered so that the front fender is 4+ inches above the height of the rear fender on a highway or public vehicular area. You can read more about the law [here](#).
- Toughen laws on theft of catalytic converters.
- Prohibit possession and use of a "skimming device" that can steal financial information from a credit card when entered into an ATM or gas pump.
- Expand expunction eligibility for nonviolent felonies if said conviction occurred at least 20 years ago.

You can read more about the changes to the laws [here](#).

The Supreme Court and the Future of Reproductive Rights



This week the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the most consequential abortion rights case since *Roe v. Wade*. This case is an attempt to overturn American's constitutional right to bodily autonomy. I was proud to join other NC legislators in support of abortion rights. As I said in the [statement](#) from [NARAL NC](#), "**We expect the Court to honor well-established precedent that protects the rights of all women to make these deeply personal reproductive decisions without government interference.**" North Carolina already has more restrictions on abortion than most other states and the ruling in *Dobbs* could clear the way for even more limits.

Mecklenburg County Finalizes LME/MCO Realignment with Alliance Health



As of December 1st, Alliance Health assumed responsibility for managing public mental health, substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities services for residents of Mecklenburg County. Please find their contact information below:

- [Information about the realignment](#)
- 24/7 Access and Information Line: **(800) 510-9132**
- Provider Helpdesk: **(919) 651-8500** or ProviderNetwork@AllianceHealthPlan.org
- Mecklenburg office in the Valerie C. Woodard Center 3205 Freedom Drive, Charlotte

Applications for the 50th Annual

Youth Legislative Assembly are Live



Applications are live for the 50th Annual Youth Legislative Assembly (YLA). The YLA offers students a **unique opportunity to learn first-hand about the legislative process**. The Legislative Services Office, under the North Carolina General Assembly, is now accepting applications for the conference to be held **April 8 – 10, 2022, in Raleigh**. Applications will be accepted through February 1, 2022.

The YLA teaches high school students about the laws governing North Carolina's citizens as well as the lawmaking process. Students draft, debate and vote on mock legislative bills while developing skills in research, interviewing, group facilitation and policy writing. As the bills are debated, the students get a chance to practice communicating their ideas, opinions and experiences in a team-building environment. At the conclusion of the three-day program, the participants have a better understanding of the lawmaking process as well as enhanced written and oral communication skills. The YLA program is open to students in North Carolina who are in good standing at a public, private, charter or home school. For more information please email YLA Coordinator, Erica Gallion, at erica.gallion@ncleg.gov or call **919-301-1372**.

Apply Here

Davidson Police Department's Angel Tree Program



**DAVIDSON POLICE
DEPARTMENT ANNUAL
ANGEL TREE PROGRAM**

See how you can help at
www.townofdavidson.org/angeltree





The Davidson Police Department has kicked off its annual Angel Tree Program. The program has historically provided **toys and clothing for children** in need but expanded in recent years to also provide elder and disabled residents with **grocery and gas gift cards**. You can learn more about the program [here](#).

Novant Health Charlotte Thanksgiving Eve Parade



I had a fun night at the **Novant Health Thanksgiving Eve Parade**. I joined other members of the Mecklenburg Delegation and members of Charlotte City Council and the Mecklenburg County Commission to walk the parade in Charlotte. We even got to meet Santa! You can learn more about the 75th annual Thanksgiving Parade [here](#). (Note, vaccinations were required and we wore masks indoors, removing them momentarily for this photo.)

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.

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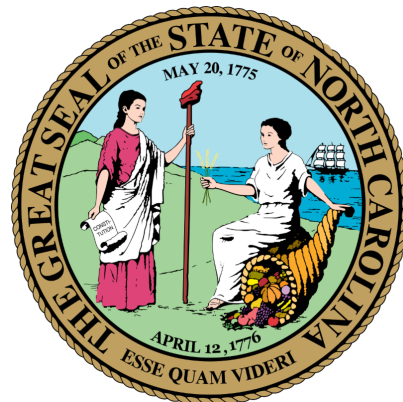
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.



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