

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

Session was held last week, but it was skeletal session, meaning no bills were presented or votes held. Committee meetings continued throughout the week.

Joyce Waddell

Medicaid Deal Delay

How much is the Medicaid deal delay costing North Carolina? Depends on who you ask. North Carolina will miss out on most of its federal signing bonus this year if lawmakers don't come to a deal by the end of September to expand Medicaid.

In the letter, obtained by a news agency recently, the head of DHHS told lawmakers that it will take three months after the approval of Medicaid expansion for the program to become operational. The federal bonus is an incentive for states who have not already expanded Medicaid to do so. It hinges not on the date of legislative action, but on the date at which the program goes live. North Carolina is still eligible for up to \$563 million this year if its Medicaid expansion is active by the end of the year.

If legislators wait until December, the state general fund would receive only one of the bonus payments," which are \$188 million per quarter.

As you know, I have been in favor of expansion. Our hospitals desperately need the funds to continue business, especially our rural hospitals.

Formula Alert

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has warned families and caregivers against purchasing or feeding babies Mother's Touch Formula. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Mother's Touch Formula does not meet the nutrient requirements for infant formula and is not fully tested for potentially harmful bacteria, and has the potential to cause nutrient deficiencies or toxicity in infants. NCDHHS says that while the formula is not available in North Carolina stores, the product can be found online, and should not be purchased. Officials urge parents and caregivers who have already purchased Mother's Touch Formula to stop using it and throw it away.

If you know of anyone using this formula, please alert them to the warning.

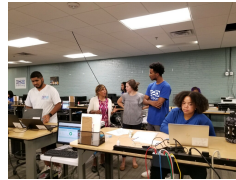


Senator Waddell and the Mecklenburg Delegation tours E2D, Inc.

E2D, Inc. Visit

Senator Waddell visits the E2D, Inc. site. E2D, Inc.

provides computers to the less fortunate to try to eliminate the digital divide.



Senator Waddell discusses the computer repairs required for distribution.

REAL ID

The men who hijacked four airliners on Sept. 11, 2001, carried various state driver's licenses and ID cards, some of them obtained fraudulently, that made it easier to board the planes. Now, 21 years later, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles and DMVs across the country are preparing for a final push before the federal government begins enforcing new identification standards designed to make ID fraud more difficult.

Even then, the N.C. DMV was not prepared for the number of people who showed up in the summer of 2018 seeking a REAL ID. Initially scheduled to go into effect in 2008, full enforcement of the federal ID standards was delayed several times over the years, most recently because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now the Department of Homeland Security says that on May 3, 2023, it will begin requiring people to show a REAL ID or other approved identification to board a domestic flight or visit federal facilities that require ID. A standard driver's license will no longer be enough.

As that date approaches, interest in the REAL ID is expected to rise at a time when the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles is short-staffed. Statewide, a third of driver's license examiner jobs are vacant, as the DMV struggles to hire and keep them. The good news for the DMV is that the run-up to May 3 does not coincide with its busiest season, summer, when schools are on break and demand for new licenses is highest.

More than 3 million North Carolinians already have REAL IDs, which should help alleviate demand in coming months. At one point, the DMV estimated that as many as half of the nearly 8 million people with state licenses or IDs would eventually want a REAL ID but later backed off that prediction.

DMV is studying whether to install computer kiosks at grocery stores and other public places that would allow customers to do DMV business that does not require an office visit, such as renewing a license. DMV finds that more than half of customers are still visiting offices for transactions they could probably complete online. A longer-term fix may be to increase the number of offices in the state's urban areas, which attract the most new residents from out of state who need their first North Carolina license.

That will not solve DMV's problems anytime soon, because the agency is having trouble finding enough workers for the offices it already has. A representative of DMV says he makes unannounced visits to DMV offices and that he recently arrived at a Charlotte office that should have had 20 driver's license examiners but only had six, because of vacancies and absences. He said he went out to the customers waiting in line and explained the situation. "If you know somebody who would like to work for the state or is looking to rejoin the workforce, come with us," he said he told them.

Cityblock

Senator Waddell and the Mecklenburg Delegation tour a new Health Center in Mecklenburg County.



Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Many of her precincts have changed which makes the election much more competitive. In November she will have an opponent running against her. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

CLICK HERE TO

**DONATE \$25; \$50; \$100; \$250
OTHER AMOUNT \$ _____**

The new booster shots for COVID are in full circulation throughout the state. If possible, consider getting a booster to ward off COVID, especially with flu season here at our

I can feel fall in the air, and am excited about the break of the weather.

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