

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

Because the month of February celebrates Black History Month, I want to provide facts about the celebration and those we celebrate.

Black History Month Began as Negro History Week -In 1926, Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week. The celebration highlighted Black Americans' history, lives, and contributions. In 1976, Negro History Week expanded to the month-long celebration we observe today. Woodson, an African American historian who graduated with a Ph.D. from Harvard, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The ASALH now leads nationwide Black History Month celebrations and establishes its themes.

Last week SB 49 was brought before the Senate for a vote. The bill passed and will now head to the House.

On Monday Rules Committee met to discuss a few bills, two of those bills are listed subsequently: SB 20 ([click here to go to the full bill](#)) and SB 53 ([click here to go to the full bill](#)), and on Thursday committee Joint Appropriations on Education/Higher Education met to discuss the Education budget.

Joyce Waddell

Senate Bills

The Senate confirmed the State Controller - Nels Roseland

The Senate confirmed the Secretary of Adult Correction - Todd Ishee

SB 49 Parents Bill of Rights - Require public school units to provide parents with information related to parental involvement in schools, legal rights for their child's education, and guides for student achievement. • Require public school units to provide notifications on student physical and mental health, require age appropriate instruction on certain topics in kindergarten – 4th grade, and create remedies for parents to address concerns over implementation of these requirements. This bill had many controversial parts, which lead me and my colleagues to vote no, however it passed the Senate 29 (Rep) -18 (Dem).

SB 53 Hotel Safety Issues - Would provide that the rental of an accommodation in an inn, hotel, motel, recreational vehicle park, campground, or similar lodging to the same person for fewer than 90 consecutive days does not create a tenancy or a residential tenancy subject to Chapter 42 of the General Statutes. This bill had many inclusions that will not help our most vulnerable members of the community, however it passed the Senate 28 (Rep) -16 (Dem) .

Literacy Test

This bill had many calling for this test to be out of our constitution and we should soon see an action to remove it. It is not the first time that state lawmakers have wanted to overturn the now-unenforceable provision, added to North Carolina's constitution in 1900 during the country's racist Jim Crow era. That and other selectively enforced laws helped prevent Black people from voting during that era. According to a source, the online state history resource, white people administered the literacy test requiring voters to interpret part of the Constitution, and often chose passages for Black voters "that even legal scholars had difficulty interpreting."

The test was outlawed across the country with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but it remains in the state constitution. It last came up in the General Assembly in 2021, after making it to the ballot in 1970 only to be rejected by North Carolina voters.

Previous attempts to advance the measure were presented. Legislators backing the measure say it is long past time to remove what one bill sponsor called an "offensive provision."

To change the North Carolina constitution, three-fifths of the House and Senate must "adopt an act submitting the proposal to the qualified voters of the State for their ratification or rejection." Then a majority of voters must approve it. If an amendment is passed, it would become effective Jan. 1 the year after it is ratified by voters, unless a different date is included in the proposal.

Prayer before Votes

Senator Waddell leads the Senate body in prayer on Thursday.



COVID & Influenza Vaccinations

Upon a precursory look at the level of vaccinations that North Carolinians have received, there is more we can do. If you do not want to receive your vaccination, ask yourself why and determine if the information you received is valid or trustworthy.

If nothing else go search out information from a trusted source and weigh your decision based upon the information you found.

Although we are not talking about COVID and Influenza much, there is still the possibility of catching it and spreading it. I always state "safety first".



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