

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

At the General Assembly

Last week was full with various committee meetings. Tuesday through Thursday, Finance and Rules and Operations of the Senate committees met.

Joyce Waddell

Senate Bills

SB 156 - Medicaid Children & Families Specialty Plan - An act authorizing the children and families specialty plan as an additional medicaid managed care plan and making other 3 changes to related statutes governing medicaid managed care.

This bill passed in the Senate and will move on to the House.

HB 40 - Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder - An act to increase the penalties for rioting or inciting rioting that causes damage to property, serious bodily injury, or death and assaulting emergency personnel during a riot or state of emergency; to allow recovery of treble damages for property damage or personal injury caused by rioting or looting; and to require pretrial release conditions for rioting and looting offenses to be determined by a judge and to direct the department of justice to develop model law enforcement agency protest response and engagement policies.

This bill came from the House, passed in the Senate and will now move on to the Governor.

Riot Bill

A bill that originated in the House that would impose tougher criminal penalties for rioting, which some say is necessary to deter people from destroying property or engaging in violent behavior, passed the Senate on recently. The Senate voted 27-16 to approve House Bill 40, with all Republicans present voting in favor of the bill and all Democrats but one voting against it. I voted "no".

The bill would increase felony penalties for certain existing rioting charges and is similar to legislation introduced in 2021, in response to some of the violence and rioting that occurred during the 2020 protests against police brutality.

Among other increased penalties, the bill makes it a more serious felony to "willfully" engage in a riot and cause serious bodily injury or property damage greater than \$2,500. It also allows authorities to hold anyone charged with rioting and looting for 24 hours, to serve as a "cooling off" period. Other increased penalties include engaging in a riot and causing someone's death, or assaulting a police officer or other emergency personnel.

While I believe that it is important to allow peaceful protests, we need to be very careful with legislating how protest takes place without adding restraining rules that could dictate why.

City of Charlotte



Senator Waddell participated in a legislative discussion meeting with members of the Mecklenburg Delegation and members of the City of Charlotte.

Teacher Licensure

The North Carolina State Board of Education wants legislators to allow for a multiyear pilot teacher licensure program that would pay instructors based on performance rather than years of experience. The board voted recently to ask lawmakers to allow them to test out a program in several public school districts beginning in the 2024-25 .

The General Assembly approved average 2.5% teacher raises for the 2021-22 school year and average 4.2% raises in 2022-23. That does not include \$2,800 bonuses for most teachers during 2021-22 and funds for additional teacher pay supplements in both years, according to the legislature's Fiscal Research Division.

Board members said higher teacher pay is not just about offering salaries to compete with districts in nearby states that can hire teachers away.

I am sponsoring a bill to increase teacher pay and to provide additional pay for those teachers who receive higher degrees.

ERA Amendment



The Democratic Women of the General Assembly participated in a press conference urging the passage of the ERA Amendment.

Central Piedmont Community College



Senator Waddell participated in a legislative discussion meeting with members of the Mecklenburg Delegation and Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees.

COVID & Influenza Vaccinations

There are many ways your actions can help protect you, your household, and your community from severe illness from the Flu and COVID-19.

Stay Up to Date with COVID-19/Flu Vaccines
 Improve Ventilation and Spend Time Outdoors
 Move indoor activities outdoors
 Stay Home When You Have Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19/Flu
 Avoid Contact with People Who Have Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19/Flu
 Wear Masks or Respirators
 Increase Space and Distance

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free.



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