

*****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 2023-03-31 14:30



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

March 31, 2023

Updates on 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](#).

Key bills on which I voted YES:

- **[SJR220](#), Confirm Phil Baddour/Industrial Commission.** * Bipartisan bill to confirm Phil Baddour to the NC Industrial Commission. The commission administers the Workers' Compensation Act and Tort Claims Act.
- **[SB51](#), Kayla's Act: Protecting Domestic Violence Victims.** * I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this important bipartisan bill that allows for remote testimony for domestic violence victims to prevent victim intimidation.
- **[SB90](#), Search of Student's Person.** * Requires that body searches of public school students be conducted by an adult of the same sex as the student. I [offered an amendment](#) to improve the bill which would require that parents be notified before the search and, in non-exigent circumstances, be given an opportunity to be present for the search. The amendment also required that schools report to DPI the reason for the searches they conduct and the age, gender and race of the students searched, so that we can track whether searches are conducted on an equitable basis. The amendment was voted down on a party-line vote (30-19).
- **[SB187](#), Teacher Licensure Changes.** * Makes limited teacher licenses renewable to help address our teacher shortage problem.
- **[SB193](#), Career Development Plans.** * I am a co-sponsor of this bipartisan bill that provides for career development plans for all middle and high school students.
- **[SB206](#), Stop Counterfeit Pills Act.** * Amends NC Controlled Substances Act to establish new violations involving counterfeit controlled substances.
- **[SB246](#), Property Owners Protection Act.** * Amends what constitutes the crime of first degree trespass to include entering or remaining on the premises of another between the hours of 12AM and 6AM.
- **[SB267](#), Restrict Detached Catalytic Purchases.** * Amends the laws governing the purchase and sale of catalytic converters that are not attached to a motor vehicle.
- **[SB291](#), QRIS/Star Rating System Reform.** * Extends expiration of the hold harmless provision for certain facilities when DHHS resumes environmental rating scale assessments for licensed child care facilities and requires the NC Child Care Commission to complete recommendations for star-rating system reform.

Key bills on which I voted NO:

- **[HB11](#), Schools for the Deaf and Blind.** Changes the administrative oversight of state-run schools for deaf and blind students. Governor Cooper vetoed this bill last year due to concerns about legislative overreach, the politicization of these schools, and the constitutionality of the bill. I voted no on the bill again in this biennium for these reasons.
- **[SB41](#), Guarantee 2nd Amendment Freedom and Protections** (veto override vote). I am deeply disappointed that the Senate had a veto override vote of this dangerous bill to eliminate the state background check on handgun sales (which was the only check for private sales) the day after the mass shooting in Nashville, and the [38th mass shooting in this month alone](#). The veto override passed in both the Senate and House, so the bill is now law. You can read more about the impact of this bill [here](#) and [here](#).

*Passed Senate unanimously

Introduced & Co-Sponsored Bills



These are the bills I have introduced and co-sponsored in the past two weeks. You can find a full list of the bills I have supported [here](#).

Introduced bills:

- [SB338, Equal Pay Act](#). Prohibits discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of employee's gender.
- [SB347, Revise, Study, and Fund LEP Allotment](#). Revises the students with limited English proficiency (LEP) allotment, requires the state Board of Education to study the LEP allotment, and appropriates funds for the LEP allotment.
- [SB353, The Remove Barriers to Gain Access to Abortion \(RBG\) Act](#). A comprehensive reproductive rights bill that removes medically unnecessary barriers to abortion access, including removing the 72-hour waiting period, the ban on telemedicine abortion, and the ban on advanced practitioners from providing abortion care. You can read more about it [here](#).
- [SB372, Community Health Center Grants for LARCs](#). Provides grants to nonprofit community health centers for the purchase and distribution of long acting reversible contraceptives to reduce unplanned/unintended pregnancies.
- [SB399, Mental Health Protection Act](#). Bans the practice of "conversion therapy" for minors and adults with disabilities and bans the use of state money for conversion therapy practices.
- [SB403, Prohibit Weapons at Voting Place](#). Prohibits the possession or carrying of a dangerous weapon within 100 feet of a voting location.
- [SB423, Homeowner Solar Expansion Act](#). Clarifies the right of homeowners to install rooftop solar without regard to HOA restrictions and allows for certain third-party sales of renewable energy. Read more about the need for this bill [here](#).

Co-sponsored bills:

- [SB346, Marijuana Justice and Reinvestment Act](#). Legalizes and regulates the sale, possession, and use of cannabis in North Carolina and reinvests funds into communities that have been disproportionately impacted by prohibition, for substance abuse treatment and education and to train more law enforcement officers to detect impaired driving.
- [SB349, Whiz Kids/Slow Pokes Voter Registration](#). Encourages participation in our democracy by reinstating same-day voter registration on election day and early registration for 16 and 17 year-olds.
- [SB350, 2023 Safe Drinking Water Act](#). Protects NC citizens from harmful toxins in drinking water by requiring the commission for public health to establish maximum contaminant levels for chemicals that are probable or known carcinogens or are otherwise toxic
- [SB368, Enabling Opportunity Scholarship Reporting](#). Allows the state to evaluate the quality of education students who receive a school voucher to attend nonpublic schools are receiving and how the voucher funding impacts public education. Requires assessments of and reporting by private schools that accept state-funded vouchers.
- [SB377, Community College System Salary Increases](#). Bipartisan bill to increase the salary for community college personal by 10% for FY2023-2024 and an additional 10% for FY2024-2025.
- [SB390, Reenact Child Tax Credit](#). Reenacts the child tax credit.
- [SB400, Prohibit Defense Based on Sex or Gender](#). Prohibits a defense to homicide or assault based on the discovery of, perception of, or belief about another person's sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- [SB401, Ensure Same-Sex Domestic Violence Protective Order](#). Ensures domestic violence protective orders are available for same-sex couples.
- [SB402, Full Repeal of HB2](#). Repeals HB2 in its entirety by repealing article 81A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.
- [SB416, Popular Election](#). Establishes North Carolina as a member of the agreement among the state to elect the President by national popular vote.
- [SB418, NC Paid Family Leave Insurance Act](#). Enacts a paid family leave insurance program to support working families across the state.
- [SB421, State Employees/Paid Parental Leave](#). Provides 8 weeks of paid parental leave to all state employees.
- [SB422, Home for Heroes](#). Creates a home buyers' assistance program with the NC Housing Finance Agency for first-time home buyers who work as public servants.

Governor Cooper Signs Medicaid Expansion Into Law



I am very happy to report that **both chambers of the NCGA passed and Governor Cooper signed Medicaid expansion into law**. Unfortunately the bill ties the effective date to passage of the state budget (which we hope will happen by June 30) so it's not effective yet. You can watch a recording of the bill signing [here](#) (video begins at 3:44). While I wish we had enacted this change a decade ago, we are celebrating that the day has finally come.

This legislation will have [profound impacts across the state and in Mecklenburg County](#) specifically, including:

- Approximately 64,000 Mecklenburg County residents covered
- Approximately 3,750 new jobs in Mecklenburg County
- \$999M in new business activity in Mecklenburg County
- \$11.5M in new Mecklenburg County revenue

Press Conferences at the NCGA

It has been a very busy two weeks in Raleigh. I held numerous press conferences with Senate and House colleagues and advocates to announce bills we filed to address various causes about which I am passionate.



Thank you to all the legislators, advocates, and healthcare providers who joined us for the [RBG Act](#) press conference to show support for equitable abortion access in North Carolina.



I was proud to join pro-equality legislators and advocates for a press conference on the various LGBTQ equality bills we filed this week. Details on all the legislation in the "Introduced & Co-Sponsored Bills" section. You can view a portion of the press conference [here](#).

Judiciary Committee Updates



The following noteworthy bills were discussed in the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) over the past 2 weeks:

- [SB51](#), **Kayla's Act: Protecting Domestic Violence Victims**. See "updates on noteworthy votes" section.
- [SB90](#), **Search of Student's Person**. See "updates on noteworthy votes" section.
- [SB206](#), **Stop Counterfeit Pills Act**. See "updates on noteworthy votes" section.
- [SB246](#), **Property Owners Protection Act**. See "updates on noteworthy votes" section.
- [SB267](#), **Restrict Detached Catalytic Purchases**. See "updates on noteworthy votes" section.

Redistricting and Elections Committee Updates



The following noteworthy bills were discussed in the [Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee](#) over the past two weeks:

- [SB27](#), **Partisan Elections for Soil & Water**. Provides the option for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to change their elections from non-partisan to partisan. I do not support this bill as I believe we should not be making all elections partisan.
- [SB286](#), **Make Pamlico Board of Education Election Partisan**. Provides for the partisan election of members of the Pamlico County Board of Education. I also do not support this bill.

Commerce and Insurance Committee Updates



The following noteworthy bills were discussed in the [Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee](#) over the past two weeks:

- [SB123](#), **Certificate of Insurance Clarifications**. Prohibits preparing, issuing, requesting, or requiring a certificate of insurance that includes extraneous information.
- [SB134](#), **Curb Underwriting Abuses**. Provides protection for property and casualty policyholders from certain underwriting abuses.

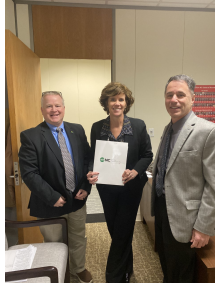
Senator Marcus in the Community & Meetings in Raleigh



Thank you to everyone who came to my second Town Hall of the year at the North County Regional Library in Huntersville. We had about 45 people in attendance (in person and online). I appreciated our conversation and your engagement in state government issues.



The Robotics competition in Charlotte last weekend was fantastic! Kudos to all the competitors, coaches and mentors, and special thanks to my student tour guide from the Buzz City team, Alyssa, who is smart, talented and charming.



I had an informative meeting with the folks from EnergyUnited to discuss the important issues facing electric cooperatives.



I had a great meeting with the Mecklenburg Audubon Society. We discussed the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act and funding for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. You can learn more about the organization and how to join them for Bird Watch Walks at [this link](#).



It was great to have Cornelius elected officials and staff in Raleigh this week! We talked about the status of their local requests, including affordable housing, the proposed history museum, infrastructure projects, and transportation.



This week the North Carolina Nurses Association had their advocacy day in Raleigh. I spoke to Mecklenburg nurses and nursing students about the importance of Medicaid expansion.



This week, I attended the virtual meeting of [NC Med Assist](#), which provides free OTC and Rx medication for uninsured people in our state. Kevin Kendrick was honored as their volunteer of the year. Kudos to him and all the work Med Assist does to assist people access the medication they need.



I had a very informative meeting with staff from the [Yadkin Riverkeeper](#) and [Catawba Riverkeeper](#) on the importance of local conservation efforts, the pipeline leak in Huntersville, and the need for storm water regulation reform in our state.



Congrats to the Town of Davidson on the opening of the new Town Hall. I had a great time touring the new facility in the old Davidson IB School, especially seeing the Mayor's office where the Principal's office used to be.



The Mecklenburg Delegation recently toured and met with staff at Tepper Sports & Entertainment, the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte Football Club. We discussed how the teams contribute to the local economy and their support for legalized sports betting.

Updates on the Inflation Reduction Act & Federal Funds Coming to NC



Last week my staff attended a briefing from the Governor's [Office of State Budget and Management](#) on an update on the Inflation Reduction Act and the federal funding that will be coming to North Carolina. **This is the most federal funding the state has received in generations**, and the team is very excited about how we can invest these funds in communities across the state. Opportunities for federal funds include:

- USDA Assistance for Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

As the bill was recently enacted, exact details on how much funding will be coming to each state is still being determined.

Caregiver Burnout in North Carolina



Caregiver burnout is a rising mental health issue in North Carolina. An estimated **1.7 million people in the state provide unpaid care** to family, friends and neighbors, which often leads to increased stress and social isolation. Many North Carolina residents don't know where to turn for information or relief.

A new statewide initiative aims to help. All residents now have free access to an online caregiver education and support portal, Tualta, which can be accessed via smartphone, iPad or computer at [this link](#).

Lessons include tips for caring for individuals with conditions including dementia or Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and heart disease. Nc-caregivers.com offers short articles and videos, in English and Spanish, and can be accessed from home 24/7, or at a local library.

Applications Open for the 2023 North Carolina Award



Nominations are being accepted for the 2023 North Carolina Award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the state, now through April 30.

The award recognizes “notable accomplishments by North Carolina citizens” in the fields of **literature, science, fine arts and public service.**

Award nominations may be submitted by anyone. A new, simplified nomination form is [available online here](#).

The 2023 North Carolina Award recipients will be honored at an event later this year. Past award recipients have included some of the country’s most distinguished artists, poets, writers, performers, journalists, scientists and public servants.

Information on the award and the online nomination process are available [here](#). To receive forms by mail or e-mail contact Jennifer Fontes at Jennifer.fontes@ncdcr.gov or (919) 814-6756.

Senate Page Program Accepting Applications

A graphic with a light green background and a dark green geometric shape in the top right corner. The text is in dark blue and black.

PAGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ARE LIVE

The NCGA Page Program is open to NC high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to learn about and participate in the legislative process for a 1-week period during the 2023 Long Session.

The program will be offered from Feb. 6 to June 29, 2023. Each Senator can select up to 5 pages for a one-week slot within the time frame listed.

Interested applicants can email me at natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov for the application link. Learn more about the program at the link below.

<https://ncleg.gov/Senate/PageProgram>

Senator Natasha Marcus

The Page Program has returned to the NCGA for the 2023 Long Session. We will welcome high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from across the state to the NCGA. **This one-week program offers young people the opportunity to learn about and participate in the legislative process of our state.** Senate Pages are important to the operation of the General Assembly as they assist the members and staff of the Senate during the legislative session.

The program will be offered for one-week sessions through June 29, 2023. Availability of weeks is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Each Senator can select up to five Pages for the Long Session and preference is given to students who live in the district. No experience necessary. Parents of pages will be responsible for securing lodging during the time their child serves.

Applications are open now. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please email me at natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov for the application link. You can learn more about the application process and the Page Program [here](#).

Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, March 17	11,781,015,481.95
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	1,681,949,703.16
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	330,038,578.02
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	266,532,575.71
State Aid	11,348,667.11
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	179,137,648.40
Tax Refunds/Distributions	180,688,976.37
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	240,160,550.33
Ending Cash, Friday, March 24	12,915,135,345.21
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	790,563,897.39
Other Reserves	31,305,101.31
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	54,098,841.60
Carry Forward Reserve	301,587,194.43
Clean Water Drinking Water Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve	0.00
Economic Development Project Reserve	642,275,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	95,328,642.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	60,991,927.49
Information Technology Reserve	108,943,174.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	326,512,736.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	155,642,170.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	0.00
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	0.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	0.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	0.00
Savings Reserve	4,750,000,000.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	1,000,000,000.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	748,786,242.90
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	0.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	25,000,000.00
Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, March 24	3,540,300,417.12

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, March 24, 2023. OSC provides a weekly update on the State's General Fund cash position which can be found at osc.nc.gov. **The current unreserved cash balance in state coffers is \$3.54 billion.**

The State Controller is North Carolina's chief fiscal officer and serves as an independent resource to ensure the financial integrity of the State.

Contact Our Office

Phone: (919) 715-3050

Email:

Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov

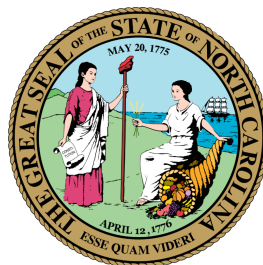
Jessica.Bolin@ncleg.gov

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](#)



Sen. Natasha Marcus, District 41 | 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

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

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov powered by

