

## Latest Updates from the NCGA



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**Date** 2023-04-21 16:03



## NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

April 21, 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:

- [SB308](#), **Guardianship Rights.**\* Bipartisan bill that amends the laws governing guardianships and powers of attorney.
- [SB384](#), **Carbon Monoxide Detectors/School Buildings.**\* Studies installation of adequate carbon monoxide alarm and detection systems and radon gas testing in public schools. I am proud to be a **co-sponsor** of this important piece of legislation.
- [SB411](#), **Students in Home School Take PSAT/AP.**\* Allows home school students to take PSAT and AP tests at their respective public school.

#### Key bills on which I voted NO:

[SB631](#), **Fairness in Women's Sports Act.** Bans all trans girl students (K-12) from girls sports teams. I do not support this bill because a) it is harmful to an already marginalized group of kids, b) it is bad for our state's reputation, and c) there are already effective procedures in place to determine on which teams transgender athletes should play on a case by case basis. In common sense, this bill is unnecessary and harmful. My Democratic colleagues introduced commonsense amendments to ban registered sex offenders from serving as middle and high school coaches, ensuring that trans athletes joining a team is considered on a case-by-case basis and not a total ban, and funding to support mental health services to students. You can read the 2 amendments [here](#) and [here](#) -- both were voted down on a party line vote. The bill passed the Senate 29-18 on a party line vote as well. You can read more about the bill [here](#) and [here](#).

\*Passed Senate unanimously

### Judiciary Committee Updates



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

- **[SB44, Mobile Beauty Salons.](#)**\* Provides licensure of mobile beauty salons to ensure their safe and hygienic operation.
- **[SB326, Firefighter Cancer Insurance & WC Program Funding.](#)**\* Supports firefighters by expanding the pilot program and making it permanent to provide insurance for those who develop cancer. Uses worker's compensation tax fund (which is existing funds so there will be no tax increase). Lastly, helps ease the burden of background checks done in small, rural fire departments.
- **[SB339, Modified Limited Driving Privilege/Criminal Laws.](#)**\* Modifies statutory provisions affecting limited driving privileges and prohibits impersonation of taxicab drivers.
- **[SB360, Modify Victim and Sex offense Registry Laws.](#)**\* Modifies laws protecting and aiding victims of crime and clarifies certain registration processes of NC sex offense registry.
- **[SB409, Increase Punishment for Cargo Theft.](#)** Amends the offense of breaking or entering into or breaking out of railroad cars, motor vehicles, trailers, aircraft, boats, or other watercraft. NC is in the top ten states experiencing cargo theft.
- **[SB565, Removing Barriers to Jobs and Housing.](#)**\* Resumes the automatic expunctions that were put into law in the [Second Chance Act](#) which were put on hold due to administrative complications. Now that the issues have been corrected, expunctions can happen so that those changes will be removed without folks needing to hire a lawyer and seek court action. I am proud to be a **co-sponsor** of this bill.
- **[SB626, Modify Laws Related to Human Trafficking.](#)**\* Gives law enforcement tools to protect victims of human trafficking and encourage them to come forward to testify and provides funds to victims to rebuild their lives. [Compassion to Act](#), a Charlotte-based nonprofit focused on supporting human trafficking victims, called the bill a "great step forward." You can read more about the bill [here](#).

\*Bipartisan

### Education Committee Updates



The following noteworthy bills were discussed in the [Senate Education/Higher Education Committee](#) over the past two weeks:

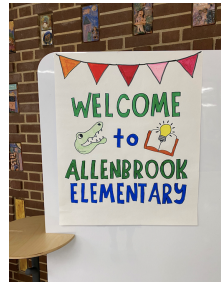
- **[SB384, Carbon Monoxide Detectors/School Buildings.](#)**\* See "updates on noteworthy votes" section.
- **[SB411, Students in Home School Take PSAT/AP.](#)** See "updates on noteworthy votes" section.
- **[SB574, Authorize NIL Agency Contracts.](#)**\* Authorizes NIL (name, image, and likeness) contracts and exempts certain contracts from public records requirements.
- **[SB631, Fairness in Women's Sports Act.](#)** See "updates on noteworthy votes" section.
- **[SB692, Community College Governance.](#)** Clarifies authority of the President of the Community Colleges System and makes changes to the appointments to the State Board of Community Colleges and local Boards of Trustees. I do not support this bill after hearing concerns about it from Central Piedmont Community College. The bill removes local school boards as members of their respective local community college board and is another attempt to strip the

\*Bipartisan

### Senator Marcus in the Community & Meetings in Raleigh



This morning I was at [Thomasboro Academy](#) for their career fair, answering students' questions about my job as a State Senator. Most of the kids would prefer a career that pays more than \$14,000 a year. (I can't blame them). My student host Jaiden is an impressive young man, with big plans for his future.



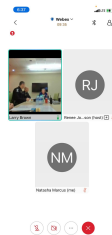
After the career fair at Thomasboro, I headed over to another school in SD41, [Allenbrook Elementary School](#). Principal Kimberly Vaught gave me a personal tour and shared her innovative approach to turning around the school. Allenbrook had been an F-rated school for years, but under her leadership, it has risen to the number one elementary school in CMS and number two in the state for academic growth. I especially enjoyed talking with these students, who took a break from their class to tell me about how much better their school is since when they started and how much they enjoy special trips with their school. You can read more about the amazing success at Allenbrook [here](#).



I met with various arts advocates from across the district and the state this week during their annual ARTS Advocacy Day at the General Assembly. They are advocating for increased arts funding, specifically \$1 per capita (vs. the current 86 cents).



Yesterday childcare advocates from across the state came to Raleigh to push for greater funds for our childcare workers. We had a huge showing of advocates from Mecklenburg county!



I attended a virtual meeting with County Commissioner Elaine Powell and Charlotte City Councilwoman Renee Johnson to discuss crime prevention efforts in the Northlake Mall area.



I met with Dr. Patrick Martin this week, the Dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and [Johnson C. Smith University](#). I appreciated learning more about JCSU's curriculum and their budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year.





**Elizabeth City State University** hosted a Legislative Reception this week. They are especially proud of their aviation program, and I met two of their students who are learning to become pilots.



Thank you to Dr. Haga from Novant and the NC Academy of Family Physicians for stopping by my office with your medical student this week. We had a great discussion about abortion care, the SAVE Act, Medicaid expansion and more.

### Some Legislators Pushing to Block Rules for More Energy Efficient Homes



North Carolina state building code requires new construction to utilize various energy efficiency measures. These measures are reviewed and updated every six years, and is set to happen this year. However, certain legislators have filed **SB378**, which would reorganize the Building Code Council (which approves new rules for construction) and **delay any changes to energy efficiency codes until 2031**. I oppose that effort because it would undermine our state's goals for reducing the pollution that causes global warming. You can read more about this topic [here](#).

### NC Center for Safer Schools Seeking Parental Involvement



In response to the rise in school shootings and threats, the **NC Center for Safer Schools** is **expanding its programming, with a focus on parental involvement**. You can learn more about the different trainings the program does (mental health first aid training, crisis intervention training, active shooter training, etc.) and how to get involved [here](#).

### E2D Hosting Laptop Distribution Event



**E2D**, a Davidson-based nonprofit, has launched a **monthly laptop distribution event called "Tech Tuesday"**. All distributions are on a first serve basis. Laptops cost \$80 each if paying with cash or money order; \$84 each if paying with a card. They have a maximum of 2 per family/household. The next event will be at 18605 Northline Drive in Cornelius from 3-5PM on May 16th.

### Atrium Health Expanding Their Mobile Women's Care Clinic



Atrium Health is expanding its mobile services and fleet of mobile medical units to serve communities in need. The initiative is **one of the nation's first mobile units dedicated solely to women's health care**, with the goals of decreasing maternal mortality rates and unintended pregnancies by bringing state-of-the-art OB-GYN care to the underserved communities that need it most.

Although appointments are not necessary, **patients may call 704-468-0137 to make an appointment or request additional information** about the [Drive to Thrive](#) resources that are available.

### April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



This month is sexual assault awareness month. I am grateful for local Mecklenburg organizations like [Safe Alliance](#) that do such important work to advocate for and protect victims of sexual violence. I am proud to have sponsored numerous pieces of legislation related to sexual assault prevention advocacy, including:

- **[SB51](#), Kayla's Act: Protecting Domestic Violence Victims.** Allows for domestic violence victims to provide remote testimony during court to prevent intimidation efforts.
- **[SB509](#), Victims' Right To Know/Rape Kit Status.** Provides for the notification of victims of rape regarding the status of a sexual assault examination kit.
- **[SB575](#), Domestic Violence Victims' Separation Waiver.** Waives the required one-year period of separation for divorce when the person in the marriage is a victim of domestic violence.

### Davidson LifeLine Offering Free Suicide Prevention Training



[Davidson LifeLine](#) is hosting a **suicide prevention training on Thursday, April 27th at 6pm** at the Davidson branch of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. The training will review warning signs and how to question to get help and safe a life. Questions can be referred to [davidsonlifeline@gmail.com](mailto:davidsonlifeline@gmail.com).

### DHHS Offering Free COVID-19 Tests



**NC DHHS** is partnering with Project Act to provide **free COVID-19 tests to all North Carolinians**. This program used to just be available for select zip codes, but it is now available statewide. Order your free tests [here](#).

## 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](mailto:Jennifer.fontes@ncdcr.gov) or (919) 814-6756.

## Senate Page Program Accepting Applications

### 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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

<b>Beginning Cash, Friday, April 07</b>	<b>11,582,603,723.46</b>
<b>Add Receipts:</b>	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	729,558,627.20
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	775,754,924.41
<b>Less Disbursements:</b>	
Payroll	96,849,334.35
State Aid	18,681,071.89
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	253,713,431.20
Tax Refunds/Distributions	526,160,409.53
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	428,274,451.25
<b>Ending Cash, Friday, April 14</b>	<b>11,764,238,576.85</b>
<b>Less Reserved Cash:</b>	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	393,692,136.86
Other Reserves	41,204,100.68
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	75,331,202.90
Carry Forward Reserve	295,401,516.43
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	631,900,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	95,328,642.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	60,652,613.81
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	765,130.94
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	748,784,561.90
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	0.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	25,000,000.00
<b>Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, April 14</b>	<b>2,771,280,590.35</b>

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, April 14. OSC provides a weekly update on the State's General Fund cash position which can be found at [osc.nc.gov](https://osc.nc.gov). **The current unreserved cash balance in state coffers is \$2.771 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.

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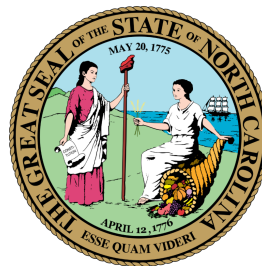
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

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