

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 *For the Week*

Senator Waddell's calendar was full with meetings at the General Assembly this week.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

*Rules and Operations of the Senate
Appropriations/Base Budget
Finance
Pensions and Retirement and Aging*

Joyce Waddell

Health Legislation

The House Health committee passed two bills Tuesday, one on requirements for child care programs and another on physician licensing.

In North Carolina, to assess the quality of child care programs, licensed facilities earn stars based on quality indicators, such as staff education and more.

Senate Bill 291 would extend a pause, enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic, on these required facility assessments until June 2024. Once assessments resume, the program would operate under a reduced threshold for the percentage of teachers that need to meet certain requirements, such as minimum education.

The other bill, House Bill 681, would expedite the state licensure for physicians who want to practice medicine in multiple states via the admission of North Carolina into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which currently has 37 affiliated states.

Physicians who apply for a license via the Compact will still have to pay the full North Carolina licensing fee as well as an additional fee, which means the bill could bring increased revenue into the medical board. The North Carolina Medical Board, which regulates the practice of medicine in the state, will still have the final authority on granting a license.

The bill would also allow the board to issue a "military relocation license" to a physician or physician assistant who is a service member or the spouse of a service member of the United States Armed Forces and meets other requirements. The bill now moves to the Finance committee.



NC Retired Government Employee Association

Senator Waddell discusses the merits of increases for retirees in North Carolina

Computer Science

North Carolina lawmakers moved a step closer Wednesday to changing high school graduation requirements.

The state Senate Education committee backed House Bill 8, which makes computer science a standalone graduation requirement beginning with ninth-grade students in the 2024-25 school year. House Bill 8 fits in the new computer science requirement by reducing the number of required elective courses.

Many jobs will require the usage of technology, which was the premise behind this bill. The bill drew bipartisan praise Wednesday. Some lawmakers raised concerns over whether high schools would have enough teachers for the new computer science courses.

The bill will not require computer science courses to be offered until the 2026-27 school year which should give enough time for schools to prepare.

An earlier version of the bill would have fit in the new computer science requirement by eliminating the earth science credit students must take. But a deal was reached to keep the earth science course.

Juvenile Justice

Senator Waddell discusses the needs of the NC Department of Juvenile Justice.



Opportunities for Senate Pages are available!



State Democrat Event

Senator Waddell discusses future legislation with the newly elected state Democrat officers.

Vaccinations

There are so many North Carolinians that have not received their COVID or Influenza vaccination. I am hoping that if you do not receive them, please be mindful of doing those things that keep yourself and your family safe.



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