

For Immediate Release



From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

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CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell
(919) 733-5650
Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net
<https://joycewaddell4nc.com/>



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
Finance
Pensions and Retirement and Aging*

Joyce Waddell

Sports Betting

Sports betting legalization is nearing the finish line in North Carolina. Online and mobile sports gambling has been mostly illegal, though proponents of a legalization bill say it's already happening. The bill passed a key vote in the state Senate on Wednesday, 38-11, setting it up to pass its final vote on Thursday.

It has had bipartisan support and opposition, with key lawmakers as sponsors. If it becomes law, the state could receive \$8.5 million in revenue during the 2023-24 fiscal year, according to legislative analysis. The following year, the impact would be \$36.1 million in revenue.

If it becomes law, the North Carolina Lottery Commission will regulate sports betting, similar to how it's done in Virginia. Two other neighboring states, Virginia and Tennessee, have legalized sports wagering, and South Carolina is considering it.



HIV Speaks

Senator Waddell discusses legislation and its ability to assist those affected by HIV in the community.

Appointment Power

The Republican-dominated General Assembly is planning to take more power away from the governor before the end of this legislative session. The latest of three power-shifting bills that many oppose is Senate Bill 512, which already passed the Senate and is now moving ahead quickly with some changes from the House.

It could be on the Governor's desk within days. If he vetoes it, there are enough Republicans to overturn it.

The legislation would take some appointment power away from the governor to give it to the state treasurer, insurance commissioner and agriculture commissioner. Those three elected offices are currently held by Republicans and are part of the 10-member Council of State.

Here's what the latest version of the bill does:

BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

- All of the current Board of Transportation members' terms would end within a month, on June 30. New members would be appointed on staggered terms if they qualify. The 20-member board would have 14 people appointed by the House speaker and Senate leader and six appointed at-large by the governor. No more than three voting members could live in the same highway division.

UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS EXPANDED

- The bill would expand membership of the UNC Board of Governors from 24 to 28 members.

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEES

The bill also makes several changes to various board and commission appointees, reducing the number made by the governor. Most add appointments made by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore.

The Senate would have to take a final vote on the bill, since the House changed it, before going to the Governor's desk.

Propane Industry Employment Path

Senator Waddell engages in conversation with representatives of the propane industry on the many employment training paths within the industry.



School Grades

State education officials are working on plans to redesign the state's system for grading schools. We are not talking about students' report cards, but rather the "A" through "F" letter grades that their schools receive on an annual basis.

The NC State Superintendent gave a report Tuesday to the House K-12 education committee on efforts to change how those grades are determined.

A school's grade is currently based on a complex formula that is about 80% based on how students score on their end-of-grade tests and 20% on their improvement on the tests.

Vaccinations

Vaccines are still available and can prevent you from getting the virus.
Ask your health provider how you can get vaccinated.



Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

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