

**For Immediate Release**



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Greetings:**

At the General Assembly  
**For the Week**

*Senator Waddell's calendar was filled with voting for legislation at the General Assembly this week, alongside of many committee meetings.*

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

*Rules and Operations of the Senate  
Finance  
Pensions and Retirement and Aging  
Education/Higher Education*

*Joyce Waddell*

**ESG**

HB 750 - Address ESG Factors.

A bill that would ban environmental, social, and governance criteria in some state decisions passed the Senate after having passed the House last month.

House Bill 750 advanced with some opposition from Democrats. One part of the bill prohibits the use of those factors, known as ESG, in employment decisions, as well as the use of “economically targeted investment” or ETI, requirements.

Another section would restrict the state treasurer from investing and managing assets based on environmental and social considerations unless they are deemed pecuniary factors.



**Prayer**

*Senator Waddell delivers a prayer at the beginning of the session.*

**Democratic Strategy**

When Anderson Clayton became chairwoman of the North Carolina Democratic Party in February, the organization had little to celebrate. Democrats had lost every major statewide race only a few months prior, including the battle for an open U.S. Senate seat and the races that determined control of the state’s Supreme Court. The party also lost power in the state legislature, where the GOP came one-seat short of a veto-proof majority while more than 40 Republicans ran unopposed. The performance in the midterm elections prompted internal strife and a shakeup in party leadership.



**AKAs Host Voting Event**

*Senator Waddell gives a presentation to an AKA committee regarding the new voter ID laws.*



## Sports Betting

HB 347 - Sports Wagering/Horse Racing Wagering. Legalized sports gambling in North Carolina cleared its last legislative hurdle Tuesday as the House accepted changes made by the Senate that include adding horse racing to the betting mix and raising the state's cut of wagering revenues. The chamber must agree to the altered measure one more time Wednesday for the Republican-controlled General Assembly to finalize the legislation and send it to the Governor, who has expressed support for authorizing and regulating sports wagering.

The consensus measure would direct the North Carolina Lottery Commission to issue up to 12 interactive sports wagering licenses to entities that would be subject to robust background checks and \$1 million application fees. While betting could begin as early as January, the commission would have until June 2024 to open the betting lines. Adults with wagering accounts could bet online through computers or mobile phones.

After expenses, legislative analysts estimate the state would take in \$71 million annually by mid-2028 from both sports wagering and horse racing. Much of the sports wagering tax revenues would go to local, regional and state athletics initiatives, athletic programs at most University of North Carolina system schools and problem-gambling programs.

## Groundbreaking Ceremony

*Senator Waddell assists in the ceremonial groundbreaking for a new runway for the Charlotte Douglas International Airport.*



## Farm Bill

SB 582 North Carolina Farm Act of 2023.

The state House has approved legislation that critics worry could eliminate protections for wetlands and water quality. The controversial provision is part of the legislature's annual farm bill, which includes a variety of agriculture legislation. The bill would prevent state regulators from enacting wetlands rules that are stricter than federal regulations.

The farm bill would also:

- Establish a new state equestrian trail that would span from Richmond County to Chatham County.
- Encourage public schools to serve muscadine grape juice. It's similar to a provision in another bill that passed the House to require the grape juice, but the farm bill describes it more as an "aspirational goal" than a mandate.
- Redesignate the official state fruit as the muscadine grape.
- Require the N.C. Veterinary Medical Board to give veterinarians a written notice that their facilities are scheduled for an inspection.

## Vaccinations

Have you spoken to your healthcare provider recently? Contact your healthcare provider to inquire about your vaccination status. COVID is still causing issues and even death. Please keep yourself up to date with your vaccination or booster.



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