

**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 schedule included session alongside of committee meetings.*

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

*Joyce Waddell*

**Academic Performance Report**

From 2019 to 2022, charter school enrollment in North Carolina increased 19% – the fifth highest growth rate in the nation, according to the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) annual report to the General Assembly.

At the same time, data show that charter schools and traditional public schools perform similarly, based on school performance grades and school growth. This is the first year DPI has included academic data in its charter schools report.

This long session, the legislature has introduced multiple bills expanding school choice, through private schools and charters, which are public schools with more flexibility. While charter schools demonstrate the choice already available in the public school system, traditional public schools remain the top choice for most of the state's students.



**Senate Page**

*Senator Waddell welcomes Matthew Sun, a student at East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, who served as a page for the NC General Assembly last week.*



**Division of Juvenile Justice Modifications**

The juvenile justice system is overtaxed and underfunded. Some of our juvenile facilities have been forced to close because of a lack of funding and employees. HB 834 was created to ease some of those issues, but we can do better. I believe our youth deserve it.

House Bill 834 would make some of the following changes to the juvenile justice system:

- Authorize a juvenile justice court counselor to serve the required individuals with the petition and summons for a juvenile case and clarify the applicability of certain defenses that relate to juvenile processes.
- Authorize the court to conduct a hearing to determine if a juvenile needs any medical evaluation or treatment and authorize the court to order the juvenile to comply with any recommended treatment.
- Require the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety to create, implement, and evaluate juvenile minority sensitivity and racial and ethnic disparities training annually.

**Sports Wagering Bill Signing**

*Senator Waddell attends the historic bill signing of HB 347 Sports Wagering. The bill was signed by the Governor at the Spectrum Center home of the NBA Charlotte Hornets.*



## SENATE BILL 58: Protect Critical Infrastructure

With all things happening in the world, the recent attacks on our energy grid showed our state our vulnerabilities. SB 58 is right on time and will hopefully deter any further attacks to our important infrastructure.

Senate Bill 58 will:

- Update and consolidate existing statutes that relate to damage to utility property (electric, gas, and telecommunications).
- Increase penalties for acts of damage to energy facilities.
- Increase the penalty for trespass to energy facilities, and add a specific prohibition on trespass to wastewater treatment facilities.
- Increase the penalty for willful injury to wires and other fixtures of telephone, broadband, broadcast, or cable telecommunications.

## Drones in North Carolina

*Senator Waddell discusses legislation needs for the expansion of employment opportunities and requirements to operate drones in North Carolina with a representative from AeroX of Winston Salem.*



## Vaccinations

There are many ways to protect yourself from COVID. One of those ways is to wear a mask. When you wear a mask, you help protect yourself & others from COVID. Masks, along with vaccines and testing, are important tools that help fight COVID. Choose a mask with the best fit, protection, and comfort for you. Please keep yourself up to date with your vaccination or booster.



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