

For Immediate Release



From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>
Date 2024-05-14 07:35



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2024
Chapter V
Volume 19

CONTACT: Senator Joyce Waddell
(919) 733-5650
Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.gov



Greetings:

At the General Assembly
For the Week

The week concluded with the Senate having voted on a few items. We voted on a couple of local bills and an environmental amendment.

As we travel through the short session, I will keep you abreast of the Senate happenings.

Joyce Waddell

Divine Nine Day

North Carolina's Black Greek letter sororities and fraternities along with the North Carolina Black Alliance are coming together for their annual Legislative Day. The group known as the "Divine Nine" make their way to Jones Street to meet with lawmakers each year. Hundreds of people gathered this morning and organizers say there's a lot at stake this election year.

This year featured events like a keynote address from Bishop William Barber, a panel on election administration and an appearance from Gov. Roy Cooper.

I believe that it is important that our black greek letter sororities and fraternities continue to lobby for agendas that are important and pertinent to our communities. As a black greek letter sorority member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, I am proud of the accomplishments we have achieved over the years. We have a duty to those coming behind us to teach and prepare for future generations to advocate and carry the torch for equality and equity in employment, health care, and finances.

Student IDs

November will mark the inaugural presidential election in North Carolina where voters must present a photo ID at the polls. The new photo ID regulations offer various acceptable forms of identification, including college IDs if endorsed by the State Board of Elections.

To gain approval, universities must demonstrate that their IDs feature both a photo and an expiration date, among other criteria. These ID cards will remain valid for voting until December 31, 2024.

Of the applicants, six were denied approval, with only one involving student IDs and the remaining five related to employee IDs due to the absence of expiration dates. None of these institutions have reapplied, as confirmed by the State Board of Elections. Moreover, many colleges and universities have yet to submit applications. Out of the 58 community colleges in North Carolina, only 24 have been approved, with one pending approval, according to a spokesperson for the Board of Elections.

Until June 14, the State Board of Elections is open to receiving applications in its final round. Some institutions needed to update their ID cards to meet the approval criteria.

We are currently heading into a slippery slope of requiring certain types of IDs approved for voting. We have had very few issues regarding this requirement. I believe we have many other concerns rather than whether someone is not who they say they are.

School Funding

The Governor's budget proposal for the upcoming legislative session, unveiled last month, allocates \$745 million over two years for early care and education. This includes a one-time \$200 million emergency fund to prevent childcare program closures. Additionally, the budget proposes an extra \$1 billion for K-12 education, featuring an average 8.5% teacher pay raise.

With federal funding stabilizing childcare set to expire in June, the Governor warned of impending closures and increased tuition fees, and advocated for extending stabilization funding, boosting compensation for early childhood teachers, expanding subsidies for families, and increasing funding for NC Pre-K and Smart Start.

Recognizing insufficient childcare as a barrier to workforce recruitment and retention, local and state business leaders have voiced concerns. The state Department of Commerce appointed a childcare business liaison to engage the business community in childcare solutions.

Every year I have been in the Senate, I have advocated for more funding in all areas of education, including Pre-K expansion. We must provide opportunities for our children at early ages to prepare them for global competitiveness.

NC General Assembly

Visit www.ncleg.gov, the official website of the North Carolina General Assembly. Use this website as a tool to track bills, find and communicate with your state representatives, as well as follow chamber activity, meetings and issues before the General Assembly. The 2022 Short Session began on Wednesday, May 18th at 12:00 noon.

Determine Your Legislators

Representation in the NC House, the NC Senate, and the US House is determined by legislative district. Click [here](#) for more information on who your legislators are.

Keep Track of Bills – Interested in tracking bills through the legislative process? <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/>. Just type in a bill number in the search bar (ex: HB1) at the top of the page.

Bills & Laws - <https://www.ncleg.gov/Legislation>

Legislative Calendar/Watch Committee Meetings

Most committee hearings are broadcast. Keep up with what's happening at the NC General Assembly. See up to date meetings calendar [here](#).



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

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!