

For Immediate Release



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Date 2025-05-05 10:07



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 5, 2025
Chapter VI
Volume 18

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Greetings:

The General Assembly was back from spring break last week. It was a busy time with over 20 bills being heard on the floor. The following two bills created much discussion through emails and conversation from constituents.

Joyce Waddell



UNC Universities

Senator Waddell, university staff, and other legislators visited Pembroke University's tent along with other universities represented in the UNC college system to gather information about programs offered.

SB 429 - 2025 Public Safety Act

SB 429 proposes a wide range of updates to North Carolina's criminal laws, with an emphasis on public safety, child protection, and justice system modernization. The bill introduces new criminal offenses, such as exposing a child to controlled substances and larceny involving gift cards, and creates enhanced penalties for firearm possession by felons during a felony, solicitation of minors, and trafficking fentanyl and carfentanil. It also expands protections for victims by allowing out-of-state residents to seek domestic violence protective orders and extending the reporting period for crime victim compensation eligibility.

Other provisions address offenses like secretly peeping, sexual misconduct by custodians in religious institutions, and unauthorized entry into restricted areas of buildings. These reforms reflect a comprehensive effort to enhance public safety, protect vulnerable populations, and improve criminal justice practices in the state.

Making the state safe for all North Carolinians is very important to me. I will always fight for legislation that places the safety of our citizens above all.



Senate Office Intern

Senator Waddell congratulates Shatha Boaj who interned for the office this semester.

SB 248 - Birth Certificates for Persons Adopted

This bill seeks to align access to birth certificates for adopted individuals with that of non-adopted individuals in North Carolina. It revises current procedures to ensure that adopted persons, their immediate family members, and legal representatives can request certified copies or abstracts of the adoptee's updated birth certificate through either the State Registrar or the register of deeds in their birth county.

To maintain privacy, the original birth certificate and related adoption records will remain sealed, as under current law. The act further mandates annual training on adoptee information privacy for staff handling these documents.

I supported this bill because it ensures equitable access to vital records for adopted individuals, granting them the same ability as non-adopted persons to obtain their birth certificates through local and state offices.

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.

You can view bills in full by visiting www.ncleg.gov.

Please don't forget to consider getting vaccinated. There are viruses and other illnesses plaguing our community that can be prevented by vaccines and proper handwashing.



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