

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:

The General Assembly voted on 5 bills and held a confirmation hearing for a cabinet member last week.

Joyce Waddell

**Rules
Committee**

Senator Waddell inquires of the Rules Committee the merits of the Board of Education changes from nonpartisan to partisan elections as it relates to several cities.



HB 959 Protecting Students in a Digital Age

The Senate revised and advanced House Bill 959 by incorporating a stricter student cellphone use policy into the Social Media Literacy in School Act. The amended bill requires local school districts to adopt policies restricting wireless device use during instructional time and mandates instruction on the impact of social media. It also bans the use of TikTok and similar apps developed by ByteDance on school grounds or for school-related activities. Districts must implement social media education at various grade levels and report compliance to the state by September 1, with oversight reporting due by October 1.



**Hispanic
Community
Advocates**

Senator Waddell met with Hispanic Community Advocates to discuss upcoming legislation as it relates to immigration.

House Bill 477 Retirement Death Benefits

House Bill 477 aims to recodify and standardize the Death Benefit Plan across multiple state retirement systems, including those for teachers, state and local government employees, judicial officials, and legislators.

This bill establishes a separate fund specifically for line-of-duty death benefits. State employers currently contribute a portion of salaries to the general Death Benefit Fund. Under the bill, up to 0.04% of these contributions may be redirected into the new fund, but only if other appropriated funds for this purpose are fully used. Any unspent funds in the separate account would revert back to the original Death Benefit Fund at the end of the fiscal year.



CMS Board of Education

Senator Waddell met with members of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education regarding legislation in Education.

Senate Confirmations

SJR 761 - Confirm Appointment, nomination, and confirmation of Teena Piccione as the State Chief Information Officer and Secretary of the Department of Information Technology.

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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