

NC House Updates



From Representative Nasif Majeed <beverlee.baker@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <beverlee.baker@ncleg.gov>
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Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



House Democrats Unanimously Oppose Permitless Carry Bill

Peace. Last week the House of Representatives signaled its approval for SB50, a bill that would loosen restrictions on concealed carrying firearms in North Carolina. The bill would allow for most people 18 years old to carry a concealed handgun without approval from their sheriff, a firearms safety training course and other common sense preconditions.

House Democrats spoke at length in opposition to the measure, which would make communities and law enforcement officers less safe. [Research](#) has demonstrated the negative consequences for states that have already made this change. Additionally, multiple polls have shown that North Carolinians support keeping the law as it is, including gun owners.

The bill now goes to Governor Stein for his consideration. All House Democrats, joined by two Republican legislators, voted against it. A number of House Republicans skipped the vote entirely. House Democrats stand ready to defend Governor Stein's veto of this dangerous legislation and prevent it from becoming law.

ICE-related Bills Await Action from Governor Stein

Two ICE-related measures passed by the General Assembly await a decision from Governor Stein. He has a number of options available: He can sign the bills into law, veto them -- triggering a veto override in both Chambers of the General Assembly, or allow them to become law without his signature.

The two bills are **HB318: [The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act](#)** and **SB153: [North Carolina Border Protection Act](#)**.

HB318 requires sheriffs to cooperate with ICE and hold undocumented people in custody for two additional days. It also requires a two hour warning to ICE before releasing them.

SB153 is more expansive in its scope. It requires all state law enforcement agencies to cooperate with ICE and it denies undocumented people from accessing some benefits like Medicaid, housing assistance and child care subsidies.

Opponents of the measures are concerned about the impact these bills would have on immigrant communities more broadly, including hesitance to reach out to law enforcement and seek help or report crimes. There are also concerns about local control and making North Carolina law enforcement officers effectively agents of ICE. These bills come in the context of a massive federal crackdown on undocumented people nationwide by the Trump Administration.

Governor Stein has yet to make a public decision on how he will handle the bills. His office released the following statement to the press: **"The governor will continue to review the bill. He has made clear that if someone commits a crime and they are here illegally, they should be deported."**

Our State's Sports Mascots Visited the General Assembly



Hugo the Hornet, the official mascot of the Charlotte Hornets
Sir Purr, the official mascot of the Carolina Panthers
Stormy the Ice Hog, the official mascot of Carolina Hurricanes

Governor Stein Announces Largest Job Commitment in State History

Last week, Governor Stein announced that JetZero selected North Carolina for its \$4 billion airplane manufacturing hub. The planned facility will be located at Piedmont Triad International Airport and is set to create more than 14,500 jobs in Guilford County in the coming years. It is the largest economic development project in North Carolina history based on job commitment, according to the Governor.

JetZero is a start-up planning to manufacture a new type of jet that is more sustainable. The jet could be up to 50% more fuel efficient than contemporary planes. Delta, United Airlines and the U.S. Air Force have invested in the company.

The state's agreement with JetZero indicates that the company will begin hiring people by 2027 and will have 14,500 jobs by 2037. JetZero joins Boom, another plane manufacturer, in choosing the Triad for its manufacturing site. North Carolina continues to attract landmark investments by companies on the cutting edge of clean energy, creating thousands of jobs.

Update on Budget Proposals

House and Senate Republican leadership have not given any substantive updates on where we stand with regard to budget negotiations. The start of a new fiscal year is quickly approaching; we are two weeks away from when a new budget would ideally be enacted.

Major differences between both chambers remain from the competing budget proposals passed earlier this year. The House wants to slow down on the personal income tax cuts because of projections that the state is facing a fiscal cliff. Without a change of course, within the next two years the state will begin taking in less money than is needed to fund a base level of services that North Carolinians expect. The House also offered far better raises for teachers, raising starting teacher pay to the highest in the Southeast. The Senate budget proposal expedites tax cuts and provides paltry teacher pay raises, in comparison.

With the Senate largely expected to adjourn for July, Senate President Pro Tem Berger told reporters that Helene recovery may need to be done separately. Republican Leadership also indicated that mini budgets could be more likely than a comprehensive budget package.

Governor Stein Signs Bills Into Law

Governor Stein signed a number of bills into law last week.

House Bill 506: [2025 State Investment Modernization Act](#)

- This law creates the North Carolina Investment Authority, transferring decision making powers for the state's pension to a board as opposed to solely the State Treasurer, bringing North Carolina in line with other states.
- Beginning January 1, 2026, the board will begin managing investments for the state pension plan.
- It is supported by Republican State Treasurer Brad Briner and bipartisan lawmakers, and should help ensure that state retirees are able to enjoy a well-handled pension that has qualified professionals making wise investment decisions

House Bill 50: [LEO Special Separation Allowance Options](#)

- This law establishes an alternative special separation allowance for State and local law enforcement officers with at least 30 years of service.
- With communities struggling to recruit and retain law enforcement officers, this law gives more flexibility to enable veteran officers to stay on the job.
- Governor Stein supported this as Attorney General and the bill received unanimous support from lawmakers.

House Bill 231: [Social Work Interstate Licensure Compact](#)

- This law makes it easier for social workers from surrounding states to have their licenses transferred so that they can work in North Carolina.
- Families rely on social workers for numerous services and this common sense legislation makes it easier for our state to fill the need.
- This legislation also received unanimous support from lawmakers.

Read Governor Stein's comments on each of those laws [here](#).

Governor Stein also signed into law **HB477: [Retirement Death Benefits Rewrite](#)**; **SB248: [Birth Certificates for Persons Adopted](#)**; and **SB477: [DNCR Agency Bill](#)**.

Peace!



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Representative Nasif Majeed, District 99 | Legislative Building 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1008 | Raleigh, NC 27601 US

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