

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 held session last week and voted on over sixty bills last week. This flurry of bills is an effort to take a break for the summer to come back to hammer out a statewide biennium budget.

Joyce Waddell



Leading Prayer

Before session in the NC General Assembly, a legislator is asked to lead the Senate in prayer. Senator Joyce Waddell leads the daily prayer for the Senate.

Hemp Restrictions

As the North Carolina legislative session comes to a brief close, lawmakers are debating how to regulate hemp products. Multiple bills have been introduced and the Senate proposed more sweeping limits that could effectively ban most current hemp products, including many containing CBD.

The Senate's stricter approach could make about 90% of hemp products illegal. The debate reflects broader tensions between public health concerns and industry preservation.

I believe that well-crafted regulations provide necessary guardrails to protect public safety, ensure product quality, and prevent the exploitation of legal gray areas that could jeopardize legitimate growers and businesses. We owe it to our communities to make sure hemp is developed responsibly, with proper oversight that distinguishes lawful agricultural use from unlawful activity.

At the same time, we must be careful not to overregulate in ways that stifle innovation or place unnecessary burdens on small producers. Hemp is a rapidly growing industry, and North Carolina has the potential to be a national leader. Crafting policies that strike a careful balance—protecting the public interest while encouraging economic opportunity and innovation in our rural communities is our best course of action.



School Mental Health Support Act

Senator Waddell participated in a press conference for mental health support (Senate Bill 630) for students especially those that engage in sports.

Neighbor State License Recognition

House Bill 763 establishes a process for recognizing occupational licenses held by individuals from certain neighboring states who move to North Carolina. The bill applies to most occupational and state agency licensing boards, with exceptions for specific professions including healthcare practitioners, architects, CPAs, engineers, attorneys, and certain regulated industries.

Under the bill, individuals licensed in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia may qualify for licensure in North Carolina if they:

- Have been licensed for at least one year in the same or substantially equivalent profession.
- Have passed any required exams.
- Are in good standing in all jurisdictions where they are or have been licensed.
- Have no history of revocation or voluntary surrender due to misconduct.
- Have no pending disciplinary actions or disqualifying criminal history.
- Pay all applicable fees.

I proudly support House Bill 763 because it promotes workforce growth and makes North Carolina more welcoming to skilled professionals relocating from neighboring states. By recognizing out-of-state occupational licenses—while maintaining strong safeguards and professional standards—this bill helps reduce unnecessary barriers to employment, encourages economic development, and addresses critical workforce shortages in key industries. It's a common-sense step forward that supports both our economy and the individuals who want to live and work in our state.

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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