For Immediate Release

From	Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>	
To	<sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>	
Reply-To	<joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>	
Date	2025-07-14 12:04	

For Immediate Release

From	Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>
To	<sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To	<joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>
Date	2025-07-14 12:04

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 14, 2025
Chapter VI
Volume 28

CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell
(919) 733-5650
Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net
https://joycewaddell4nc.com/

Greetings:

Summer is winding down quickly. I hope you and your family are enjoying the summer and continuing to be careful. The state has been having some weather challenges that have brought about floods and other destruction. Please be safe and make the most of this summer.

Joyce Waddell

Democratic Women

Senator Waddell and Representative Mary Belk gives legislative update at the monthly meeting of the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County.

Teacher Licensure Update

North Carolina will maintain its current passing scores for teacher licensure exams, opting not to raise the required cut scores on the edTPA assessments. The decision comes amid ongoing concerns about teacher shortages across the state and the potential impact of higher test standards on the educator pipeline.

State education officials determined that increasing the passing scores, though aligned with recommendations from the test provider, would likely reduce the number of candidates earning licensure without significantly improving teacher effectiveness. The decision was supported by both the Department of Public Instruction and the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission, which advises the State Board of Education.

North Carolina's current cut score of 38 falls in the mid-range compared to other states—higher than in several states but lower than in others. The decision to maintain the existing score was made unanimously by the State Board of Education.

Senate Bill 124 - State Hiring Accessibility and Modernization

A new law in North Carolina aims to reduce hiring delays and fill long-standing vacancies in state government jobs. The legislation directs the State Human Resources Commission to review job qualifications and expand roles that do not require a four-year degree, making it easier for individuals with military backgrounds or trade certifications to apply. The bill also allows agencies to expedite hiring by reusing qualified candidate pools, transitioning temporary workers into permanent roles, and offering greater flexibility in setting salaries and providing hiring or retention bonuses for hard-to-fill positions.

The positive aspects of this bill opens the door to more North Carolinians by valuing real-world experience and skills over unnecessary degree requirements. It helps streamline the hiring process, fills critical vacancies faster, and ensures that state government can better serve our communities with a strong, diverse, and capable workforce. This legislation is a step toward creating a more inclusive, efficient, and opportunity-rich public sector.

NAACP

Senator Waddell, Mecklenburg Delegation Legislators, and other community leaders participated at the 116th NAACP National Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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.

Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1106 Legislative Building | Raleigh, NC 27601 US