

## 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:**

At the General Assembly  
***For the Week***

*I participated in many community activities during the week. We are continuing to forge ahead at the General Assembly.*

***Joyce Waddell***

## Government Vacancies

New proposals to streamline hiring and retention in North Carolina's state government passed a key state Senate committee on Tuesday, addressing significant understaffing issues across various agencies. The impact of understaffing has been widespread:

- **Safety Inspections:** Thousands of elevators are overdue for safety inspections.
- **School Transportation:** Public school students face longer bus rides due to driver shortages, with some counties, like Wake, using local budgets to offer higher pay.
- **Traffic Enforcement:** The Highway Patrol struggles with hundreds of vacant state trooper positions, affecting traffic enforcement and safety.
- **State Prisons:** Nearly half of all jobs in state prisons were vacant last year, raising safety concerns for both employees and inmates.
- **Mental Health Services:** State-run mental health hospitals keep beds empty due to staffing shortages, worsening wait times for critical care.
- **Financial Strain:** High vacancies lead to increased overtime costs and reliance on expensive private contractors.

Agencies often face the costly issue of training new hires only to lose them after a short period. House Bill 223 aims to address this by prioritizing the hiring of temporary employees who are already familiar with the Department of Health and Human Services, the state's largest agency.

The bill passed easily with no opposition in its first movement in the Senate, despite passing unanimously in the House over a year ago. Similarly, Senate Bill 239, which would eliminate some four-year degree requirements for state jobs, passed the Senate unanimously but hasn't been taken up by the House. The Governor issued an executive order with similar aims, though executive orders lack the permanence of state laws.

The bill emphasizes flexibility, allowing hiring managers to extend conditional job offers quickly post-interview, bypassing delays from reference checks and background investigations. It also allows applicants to opt-in for their resumes to be kept on file, reducing the need for reapplication and potentially capturing second-choice candidates for future openings.

Additionally, the bill would repeal the requirement for state agencies to wait at least three weeks after posting a job before making a hire.

I encourage everyone seeking employment to take advantage of available jobs. With great increases in goods and services in this state, good jobs are available to anyone.

## Museum Grand Opening

Senator Waddell and other Mecklenburg legislators participate in the grand opening of the new Sullenberger Aviation Museum in Charlotte.



## NC General Assembly

Visit [www.ncleg.gov](http://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. The 2022 Short Session began on Wednesday, May 18th at 12:00 noon.



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