

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

At the General Assembly
For the Week

We are wrapping up the short session within the next few weeks. Last week the Rules & Operations of the Senate, Education, and Finance committees met to determine whether to advance bills to the Senate floor. Session was held Tuesday and Thursday. A few of the bills that were heard through committee and the Senate floor were:

- *Human Trafficking Changes - An act directing the department of labor to develop human trafficking awareness training, requiring lodging establishments, accommodation facilitators, and property managers for vacation rentals to implement human trafficking awareness training, increasing the punishment for a first offense of soliciting a prostitute, modifying laws related to human trafficking, and modifying the definition of victim in the crime victim's compensation act.*
- *HB 563 Hemp-Derived Consumables/Con Sub Changes - An act to regulate the sale and distribution of hemp-derived consumable products, to impose an excise tax on those products, to ban those products from school grounds, to place tianeptine, xylazine, and kratom on the controlled substance schedules, to create the offense of criminal possession and unlawful sale of embalming fluid and to make other technical revisions, to create new criminal offenses for exposing a child to a controlled substance to enact the North Carolina compassionate care act, and to require certain education about opioids.*
- *HB 199 DMV Proposed Legislative Changes - An act to make various changes to the motor vehicle, lien hearing notification, and service of process laws of the state, as recommended by the division of motor vehicles of the department of transportation, and to make other changes to laws related to transportation.*

Joyce Waddell

Physicians Assistant Advocacy Day



Senator Waddell discusses health care legislation with physicians assistants throughout North Carolina.

Medical Marijuana Legislation Progress in North Carolina

As the end of the 2024 legislative session approaches, Senate Republicans accelerated efforts to legalize medical marijuana in North Carolina with a 33-9 vote on Thursday. This marks the third attempt in three years where the Senate, with broad bipartisan support, has voted to legalize medical marijuana. However, GOP leaders in the state House have consistently blocked it from a vote.

Public polling indicates strong support for marijuana legalization among North Carolinians, whether for medical or recreational use. However, the initiative faces significant resistance from conservative Christian groups, influential in Republican primary elections.

Opposition came from a Republican Senator, who expressed concerns about the potential gateway to recreational marijuana legalization and highlighted the lack of FDA approval and major medical group endorsements for medical marijuana. He stressed the need to protect young people.

The Attorney General is supportive of medical marijuana but critical of the bill sponsor's proposal, raised concerns about insufficient safeguards to prevent children's access. He called for measures like ID checks, secure storage, and restrictions near schools, emphasizing the need to protect children.

In addition to the medical marijuana bill, the Senate unanimously passed legislation to regulate the sale of non-FDA-approved vapes and nicotine products, forwarding it to the state House for potential final approval. This push is led primarily by Reynolds American, a major tobacco company with an FDA-approved vape product, aiming to enforce stricter regulations on non-compliant competitors.

If monitored correctly and used strictly for medicinal purposes, this drug can be used to assist in pain management naturally. I am not an advocate for illicit drug use, but I have seen many medical reports that provide evidence of the benefits of medical marijuana.

Award



Senator Waddell receives the Public Citizen of the Year Award during the 2nd Annual Knights of Peter Claver awards gala.

Senator Waddell is pictured with other award honorees.



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. The 2022 Short Session began on Wednesday, May 18th at 12:00 noon.



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