



From the Desk of **Representative**

Erin Pate

District 37

Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

March 15, 2025

Thank you for reading my newsletter for legislative updates and District 37 news.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter, as I have been hard at work in Raleigh and here in the district!

The past few weeks have been very productive. I have filed a number of significant pieces of legislation, including bills that will provide greater accountability and transparency to the taxpayer and improve the education landscape in NC.

My role as an Appropriations Committee Chair has kept me very busy. I am enjoying the work, and look forward to helping craft a state budget that keeps NC on its upward trajectory.

Of course my favorite part of my job is engaging with those I represent. Many district engagement events to tell you about.

Also...did you know that the NC Firefighter of the Year is one of our own from Holly Springs?

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!



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our official website

RepErinParé.com



House Passes 3rd Helene Recovery Bill - Senate and House conferees work to iron out differences in proposals



Last week, the House passed the 3rd Helene Recovery Funding bill - HB47 Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 Part 1, which appropriated \$500 million to the Western NC recovery effort. The Senate passed their version of the recovery package which totaled approximately \$535 million. Since the two bills differed somewhat in how to invest state dollars in this phase of recovery funding, the House voted to not concur with the Senate proposal and iron out the differences in a conference committee. The Western NC delegation Members from both the House and the Senate are driving these negotiations, and we expect a resolution and a final bill passed out of the legislature to the Governor's desk for his signature in short order.

This bill is the third Helene Recovery bill passed by the House, and the latest with more funding bills expected. This bill would bring the state's investment in Helene Recovery to approx. \$1.5B for Western NC. Federal dollars are critical to this recovery effort; our work continues with our federal partners to advocate for federal support for the recovery effort.

Key provisions of HB 47:

- \$150 million for housing reconstruction, with a goal of setting up a program in the N.C. Department of Commerce that could be reimbursed by federal money later. Stein is also seeking \$50 million for affordable housing construction and \$25 million to help storm victims pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills.
- Funding to repair and rebuild private roads and bridges — something that's become a major public safety concern as emergency responders can't quickly reach homes that have been cut off by washed-out roads and bridges. The House bill includes \$10 million for that effort, while Stein wants \$75 million.
- Funding to state and local government agencies to remove storm debris, also a public safety issue due to concerns that downed trees and other debris could fuel wildfires or exacerbate future river and creek flooding. The House bill calls for \$20 million for the program, while Stein is seeking \$12 million.
- Funding to repair state government facilities, including state parks and two state prisons that were damaged during Helene. Stein is calling for \$135 million, while the House bill includes \$60 million.
- Funding for the N.C. Department of Agriculture to back "natural restoration projects that enable farmers in the affected area to resume production and protect communities against additional flood damage," according to the House bill. The House wants \$150 million for those projects, while Stein's plan including \$147 million to help farmers through a wider range of programs, including recovery grants to farmers who sustained crop losses.
- \$10 million to provide grants to nonprofit volunteer groups working on disaster relief
- A mandate that the governor avoid using state funds to pay for things that will likely be covered by federal money
- An extension of the current state of emergency declaration for Helene through June 1.

See link: <https://www.wunc.org/politics/2025-02-05/nc-house-helene-recovery-bill>

Rep. Paré Introduces Bill To Raise Teacher Pay and Study Innovative Competitive Pay Formulas to Help with Hard-to-Fill Positions



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02/25/2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**REPRESENTATIVE ERIN PARÉ FILES BILL TO RAISE STARTING
TEACHER PAY TO \$50K, RESTORE MASTER'S DEGREE PAY, AND STUDY
DOLLAR ALLOTMENT SYSTEM TO INCREASE DISTRICT
COMPENSATION FLEXIBILITY**

RALEIGH, N.C. – On Tuesday, February 25, 2025, Representative Erin Paré (R-Wake) filed HB 192 "Raise Teacher Pay & Dollar Allot. Study." The bill raises North Carolina starting teacher pay to \$50,000 and restores master's degree pay. The bill also directs the North Carolina Collaboratory to study the creation of a dollar allotment system for the compensation of certain public school employees. Primary sponsors of the bill include Rep. Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth), Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Mecklenburg), and Rep. Mike Schietzelt (R-Wake).

"Being able to recruit and retain great teachers in North Carolina is an important part of improving education outcomes and making sure North Carolina is competitive for talent in our schools. My bill will increase starting teacher pay to \$50,000 and restore master's degree pay. As a mom of two kids in public school myself, it is important to me that we invest in public education in North Carolina; making sure we are competitive with teacher pay is top priority," said Rep. Paré.

The bill also directs the North Carolina Collaboratory to study the creation of a dollar allotment system for public school employee compensation.

"The idea here is to see how the state could give local school districts more flexibility to differentiate pay in order to hire and retain good people for high demand, hard to hire positions in schools. We want high-quality, effective teachers in the classrooms, particularly in positions that require more unique training and expertise. Thinking in an innovative way about how the state can support this in 115 different school districts is what we need to be doing," said Rep. Paré.

**Holly Springs Battalion Chief Hunter Byars
Named NC Firefighter of the Year**



Very proud to celebrate one of our own!

Holly Springs Battalion Chief Hunter Byars has been named North Carolina Firefighter of the Year by the N.C. Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. Please join me in congratulating Chief Byars. Read below about Hunter Byars' service and why he was given this outstanding recognition.

<https://www.hollyspringsnc.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1576>

"Throughout his 16-year career with Holly Springs, Battalion Chief Byars' unwavering commitment to his department, his community, and the mission of protecting lives and property stands as a testament to his character and professionalism," said Holly Springs Fire Chief LeRoy Smith. "His commitment to excellence, coupled with his ability to manage complex operations with precision and foresight, make him a deserving candidate for recognition." Smith noted Byars' leadership and service during Hurricane Helene recovery efforts in Western Carolina.

"Without hesitation, he volunteered to lead the first crew of Holly Springs firefighters deployed to assist communities in desperate need," Smith said. Byars was pivotal in establishing a base camp and a logistics distribution point to facilitate the delivery of essential supplies to affected residents. Byars and his team also helped establish critical communications infrastructure, allowing for the restoration of Internet, cellular, and radio communication in the region.

"The feedback from those who worked alongside him during the deployment was nothing short of exemplary," Smith said. "His ability to lead under pressure, inspire confidence, and drive impactful results left an indelible mark on both his team and the communities they served."

Byars manages the radio program that ensures seamless and reliable emergency operations communications for Holly Springs firefighters. He also spearheaded the effort to place mobile data terminals on emergency vehicles, enhancing situational awareness for first responders and ensuring they can access vital information.

Byars and other dedicated firefighters are a large reason why the Holly Springs Fire Department was able to achieve its No. 1 ISO rating, placing the department in the top 1% of fire departments nationally, Smith said. The rating measures the Town's fire preparedness in emergencies, which can affect home insurance rates.

Rep. Pará Bill HB 173 "Wake County ETJ" Receives a Favorable Report from Committee

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) = Regulation without representation.

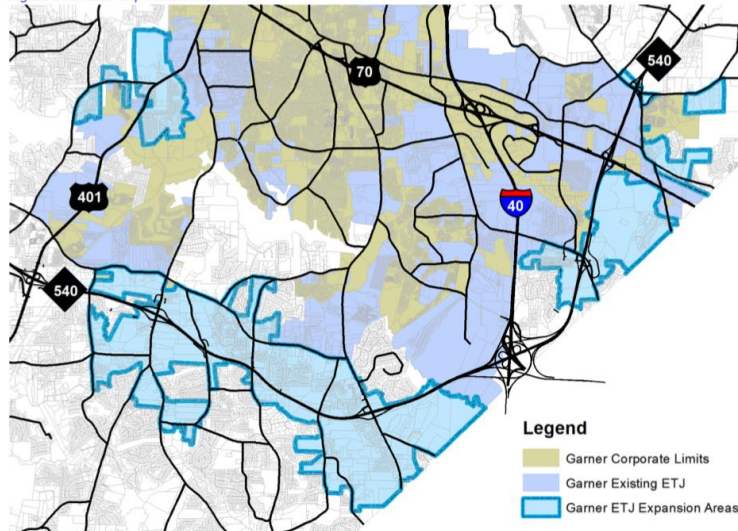
My bill HB 173 will halt ETJ expansion in Wake County for three years.

District 37 property owners who are impacted by the Town of Garner's recent ETJ expansion plan would rather work with the County on land use and planning issues, as their property is currently located in county jurisdiction. They do not wish to be regulated by a municipality that their property is not located in and where they have no vote.

The Wake County Farm Bureau has come out in support of my bill, as well as the NC Realtors. I will continue to advocate for the passage of this bill. It is the right think to do.

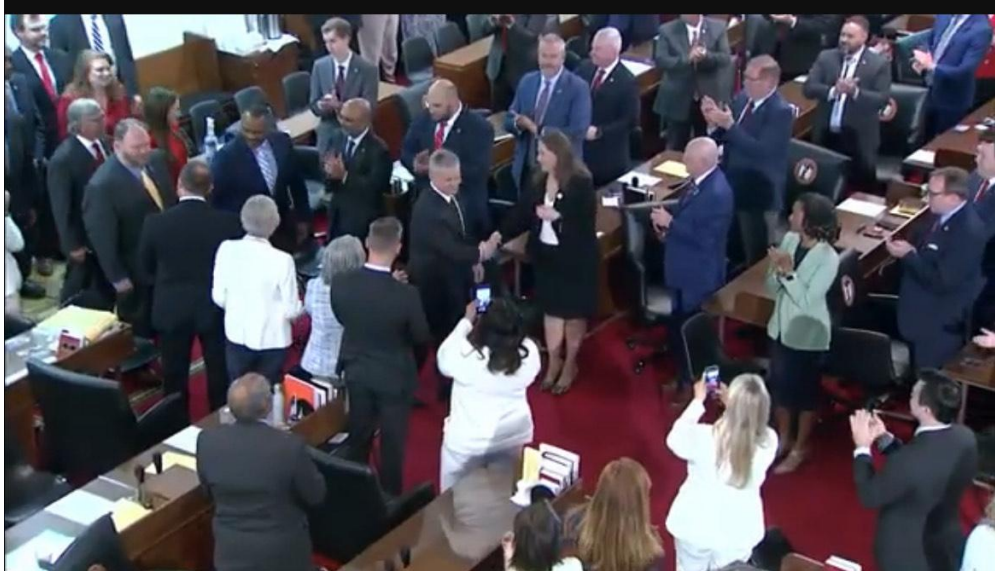
PLANNING | MEMORANDUM

Figure 1: Overall Expansion Area



State of the State Address

On Wednesday evening, March 11th, Governor Stein delivered the State of the State Address in the House Chamber. I was honored to be appointed to the escort committee for the event. I was also able to speak with Chris Edwards on WPTF Radio the following morning and gave my assessment of the address. Please click this link to listen: <https://rss.com/podcasts/wptf-morning-show/1938559/>



Springs/Fuquay-Varina Exempt Contracts

First, HB 352 as introduced is not in its final form, as many bills are not when they are first introduced. In the General Assembly we have bill filing deadlines to meet. I have been working on this bill with Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina for a few months and we were not able to get to a more narrow form of this bill in time to meet the local bill filing deadline, so I filed a more broad version of the bill as a starter point. As this bill is considered in committee, you will see it narrowed in scope significantly to meet its intent, and perhaps apply statewide instead of locally as the problem it seeks to solve is not just confined to Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina.

There is a very limited number of companies able to do large water infrastructure projects in NC, not nearly enough to meet the demand for water system upgrades all across the state. As a result, it has been very common for municipalities like Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina to not be able reach the 3 bid threshold for these projects, required by state law. This 3 bid requirement and the inability to meet that threshold is causing unnecessary delays and cost overruns for these needed critical infrastructure projects, paid for by the taxpayer. This bill seeks to protect the taxpayer by reforming the required number of bids from 3 to 2 for water infrastructure projects. The current bill is too broad, and that is because we are still working with stakeholders to craft the correct language before the bill is heard in committee.

Please stay tuned as we continue to work through the legislative process to get this bill where it needs to be to address the problem. You can follow the progress of the bill HERE: <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2025/HB352>

Please reach out to me with questions: 919-733-2962 or erin.pare@ncleg.gov.

Rep. Paré Appears on PBSNC "State Lines"

Rep. Paré had the pleasure of taking part in State Lines on PBSNC last week. Among the topics discussed was the bill proposing a ban on DEI in public K-12 schools.

Watch the program HERE: <https://youtu.be/EI2woJitUPE?si=N6X-iSP3XHVyEyll>



Holly Springs Fire Station #3 Ribbon-Cutting



Rep. Paré was thrilled to take part in the grand opening of the new Holly Springs Fire Station #3. Rep. Paré worked with the Town to help this project come to fruition with a state grant of 2.5 million. "Keeping our communities safe as we grow is important. It was great celebrating with the Holly Springs team."



Rep. Paré Attends the Annual Wake County Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast

"Each year I look forward to attending the Wake Farm Bureau's Legislative Breakfast at Pam's Farmhouse. It is a great opportunity to hear about the Farm Bureau's legislative priorities, and visit with other federal, state, and local leaders. Of course, it is always excellent to see FFA students from high schools around the county. Farmland preservation is very important to me."



Rep. Paré Attends the Annual Town and State Dinner Hosted by the League of Municipalities



This year's Town and State Dinner did not disappoint! I enjoyed visiting with Wake County representatives, including Holly Springs Mayor Sean Mayefskie (pictured above), and listening to the panel discussion between Speaker Hall and Leader Reives about issues that impact our municipalities.



Opportunity for High School Students

NC HOUSE PAGE PROGRAM

The program offers high school students a firsthand look at the legislative process.

- ✓ 4-DAY LONG EXPERIENCE
- ✓ OPEN TO GRADES 10-12
- ✓ FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE

APPLY NOW

ncleg.gov/House/PageProgram



The 2025 Long Session House Page Applications are available online

beginning **Monday, January 6, 2025**. The Page website can be accessed by visiting the following: <https://www.ncleg.gov/House/PageProgram/>.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Pages may only serve one time in the House.
- Each Representative is allotted **up to 5 Page appointments** during the 2025 Long Session.
- **Current sophomore, junior, and senior high school students will be eligible to apply.**
- Check the House Page website for participant eligibility requirements and available dates to serve as a House Page.
- House Pages are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- House Page applications are accepted until all weeks are full.

2025-2026 General Assembly Biennium

Rep. Paré introduced, sponsored, or co-sponsored the following bills. [Please find links to all of these bills here.](#)

Introduced bills:

HB 4 "Sam's Law"
HB11 "No Tax on Tips, Overtime, Bonus Pay"
HB 14 "Gambling Losses Tax Deduction"
HB 15 "Support Private Property Rights"
HB 46 "Make Healthcare Affordable"
HB 56 "Publish Central Office Employment Information"
HB 59 "Expand Elderly/Disabled Homestead Exclusion"
HB 76 "Protect Access to In Vitro Fertilization"
HB 94 "Dis. Veteran Homestead Excl. Prequalification"
HB124 "Adopt Official State Cookie"
HB125 "Adopt Official State Star"
HB137 "Gabe Torres Act"
HB151 "SchCalFlex/Wake/CC"
HB156 "Increase Access for Small Employers/Insurance"
HB 173 "Wake County ETJ"
HB 189 "Red Light Camera Interval"
HB 192 "Raise Teacher Pay & Dollar Allotment Study"
HB 352 "Holly Springs/Fuquay-Varina Exempt Contracts"

Sponsored bills:

HB 35 "Establish Military Appreciation Month"
HB 39 "Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exclusion"
HB 67 "Interstate Medical Licensure Compact"
HB118 "Disabled Veterans Tax Relief Bill"
HB133 "NC Farmland and Military Protection Act"
HB 137 "Gabe Torres Act"
HB 186 "Stars and Stripes Commitment Act"
HB 309 "Bldg. Code Fam. Child Care Home Class"

HB 364 "STIP Grant Anticipation Notes"

HJR 379 "Application for a Convention of States"

HB 389 "Child Care Workforce Pilot Program/Funds"

HB 402 "NC REINS Act"

Do You Have Unclaimed Cash with the State Treasurer's Office?



Click Here to Find Out!

Contact



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