



From the Desk of **Representative**

Erin Paré

District 37

Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

April 12, 2025

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

The weeks are packed with the work of the people. As a Budget Chair, I have been taking part in daily meetings regarding the House's state budget proposal. This session, the Senate is first to put together their budget proposal, and that proposal should be coming out next week. Governor Stein has already presented his recommended state budget to the legislature. I am committed to a smart and strategic budget that spends smartly for state needs and prioritizes efficiency in state government in order to pave the way for future stability and prosperity.

The House bill filing deadline was this past Thursday at 5:00p.m. Well over a thousand bills have been filed in the House. Over the coming weeks I will provide more information on what bills are considered by the full House, and how I voted on the various proposals.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

-Representative Erin Paré



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our official website

RepErinParé.com



ICYMI - House Passes HB 87 "Cell Phone Free Education"

A photograph of a classroom setting. In the foreground, a hand is placing a smartphone into a woven basket filled with several other smartphones. In the background, students are seated at a table, and a teacher is standing and talking to them. The text "EDUCATION SHOULD BE CELLPHONE FREE" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters.

EDUCATION SHOULD BE
**CELLPHONE
FREE**

*House Bill 87 eliminates
phones from classrooms.*

The NC House has given approval to HB 87 "Cell Phone Free Education" which requires school districts to develop a policy that severely restricts or eliminates the use of cell phones in public school classrooms. Rep. Paré voted in favor of the bill. The bill passed with strong bipartisan support 117-3.

While there are some acceptable uses for cell phones in the classroom, it is widely considered by many teachers, parents, administrators, and even students to be a major source of distraction from learning. This bill strikes the right balance of making sure the intent to significantly restrict cell phone use in

the classroom is accomplished, while also requiring individual school districts to develop the policy that is right for the district.

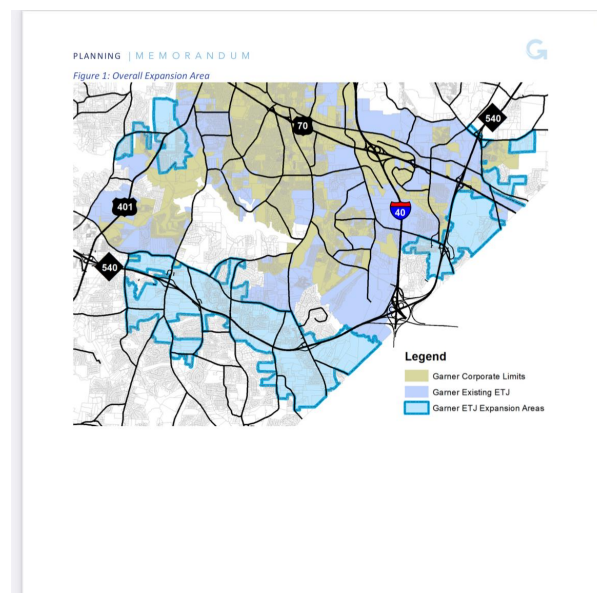
Rep. Paré's Bill HB 173 "Wake County ETJ" Passes the House

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 in the Senate. It is the right think to do.



Rep. Paré's bill HB352 "Modify Water Sewage Project Bid Req." Passes the House

HB 352 was first introduced as a local bill for just Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina entitled "Holly Springs/Fuquay-Varina Exempt Contracts". As many bills are not in the final form when they are first introduced, neither was the first local version of HB 352. As I prepared this bill to be heard in the first committee, it became clear that the problem that I describe below is not just confined to southern Wake County; it is a problem in other areas of the state as well.

There is a very limited number of companies able to do large water/sewer infrastructure project work in NC, (only 12, actually), not nearly enough to meet

the demand for water system upgrades all across the state. As a result, it has been very hard, if not impossible for municipalities like Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina to reach the 3 bid threshold for these projects, as required by state law. This inability to receive 3 bids requires the municipality to re-bid out for these projects. This has led to higher costs and unnecessary delays. This bill seeks to protect the taxpayer by reducing the required number of bids from 3 to 2 for water/sewer infrastructure projects for a period of 5 years.

This is a common-sense bill that adapts state law to react to the challenges of the current environment. The bill passed unanimously in the House 115-0. On to the Senate.

Rep. Paré's bill HB156 "Increase Access for Small Employers/Insurance" Passes the Insurance Committee

This session, Rep. Paré filed HB 156 "Increase Access for Small Employers/Insurance". This bill passed the House near unanimous last session, What this bill does is reduce the employee threshold for level-funded plans from twelve to five. These health insurance plans are popular among small businesses because they provide an affordable way for small businesses to provide health insurance to their employees.

Forty-six states in the nation have level-funded plans, and only three of those states have an employee threshold above five; North Carolina is one of them and the only state in the southeast above five. This is a good bill for small business in North Carolina and to increase access to health insurance for the people of NC. An important note - the passage of this bill could help insure more people through their employer who are now receiving coverage through Medicaid expansion.

View the bill HERE: <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2025/hb156>

Rep. Paré files HB 571 "Funds for PTSD Treatment for Police Officers"

This session Rep. Paré introduced a bill that would appropriate \$500,000 in non-recurring funds to the Department of Public Safety to help establish a grant program to treat police officers suffering from PTSD. Rep. Paré said, "It is important that we continue to support our police and first responders. I am grateful for the support of my colleagues and fellow primary sponsors on this bill Rep. Reeder, Rep. Chesser, and Rep. Campbell. Let's get this done!"

H

HOUSE BILL DRH10274-LGa-118

D

Short Title: Funds for PTSD Treatment for Police Officers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Paré.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO
3 ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO TREAT POLICE OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN
4 DIAGNOSED WITH POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD).
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
7 Public Safety the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
8 2025-2026 fiscal year to assist the Department in establishing a grant program to treat police
9 officers who have been diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
10 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.

Rep. Paré visits the Harnett County
Partnership for Children with Rep. Howard
Penny!





ICYMI - It was great to join my friend Rep. Howard Penny a few weeks ago on a visit to the Ready to Grow facility at the Harnett County Partnership for Children. It was great to see the children and parents in action, as well as tour their new Grow on the Go Mobile Playbus.

Executive Director Tara Fish shared information about the programs they offer families, and the growth and demand for the organization's services. We appreciate the team welcoming us!





Rep. Paré files HB 811 "Taxpayer Transparency Act"

Here in Wake County, we have all likely experienced higher property tax bills recently. The county is not the only taxing authority that taxes our property - our local governments do as well. The purpose of this bill is to provide transparency to the tax payer about, 1. The tax rate in effect the year immediately preceding the reevaluation; 2. The revenue-neutral tax rate required by law; 3. The tax rate adopted in the year of the reevaluation; 4. The percentage increase and decrease between (2) and (3); 5. Instructions on where property owners can find government adopted budgets.

Rep. Paré, "Taxpayers deserve transparency and this bill provides that necessary transparency. Join me in supporting this bill."

Read the bill HERE: <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/hb811>

Rep. Paré Visits Herbert Akins Road Elementary for "Read Across America Week" and Willow Spring High School for "Take Your Legislator to School Day"



One of my favorite things to do is visit schools in my district and talk to students, teachers and administrators! I was very lucky to visit Herbert Akins Road Elementary in Fuquay-Varina during Read Across America week and read “Sky Color” to a class of the sweetest, cutest first graders!

And Friday, for “Take Your Legislator To School Day” I had the pleasure of visiting Willow Spring High School! I spent valuable time speaking to Principal Martin, and dropped in an AP Government class where I was able to talk to students about the legislative process and answer questions!

We have great schools in Southern Wake. Very proud to support our students, teachers, administrators and staff!



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 14 "Gambling Losses Tax Deduction"
HB 56 "Publish Central Office Employment Information"
HB 59 "Expand Elderly/Disabled Homestead Exclusion"
HB 94 "Dis. Veteran Homestead Excl. Prequalification"
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 "Modify Water and Sewage Project Bid Req."
HB 571 "Funds for PTSD Treatment for Police Officers"
HB 672 "Physician Assist. Omnibus/Team based/Compact"
HB 811 "Taxpayer Transparency Act"
HB 837 "Study Alternative Methods for Highway Funding"
HB 896 "Jesse's Law"

Sponsored bills:

HB 4 "Sam's Law"
HB11 "No Tax on Tips, Overtime, Bonus Pay"
HB 15 "Support Private Property Rights"
HB 46 "Make Health care Affordable"
HB 76 "Protect Access to In Vitro Fertilization"
HB124 "Adopt Official State Cookie"
HB125 "Adopt Official State Star"
HB137 "Gabe Torres Act"
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"
HB 406 "Clarify Motor Vehicle Dealer Laws"
HB 412 "Child Care Regulatory Reforms"
HB 418 "K-5 Performing and Visual Arts Requirement"
HB 465 "Waive Renewal Fee/Military Drivers Licenses"
HB 480 "Medical Board Licensing Efficiency Act"
HB 488 "Modify School Performance Grades"
HB 523 "School Social Workers/Master's Pay"
HB 542 "Child Care Mental and Behavioral Services/Funds"
HB 581 "Career Pathways Transparency Act"
HB 588 "School Psychologist Omnibus"
HB 610 "Study Year-Round School"
HB 611 "Increase AP's in Public School"
HB 794 "Study Highway Patrol Staffing/Salary Scale"
HB 800 "Review Effectiveness & Delivery of Child Care"
HB 814 "Power Infrastructure Resiliency & Eff. (PIRE)"
HB 854 "Require Licensure of Educational Interpreters"
HB 877 "Childcare Pilot"
HB 912 "The Hometown Opp. for Mentoring Educators Act"

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



Click Here to Find Out!

Contact



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