

From the Desk of Representative



Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

July 4, 2024

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

I hope you have a very happy and enjoyable 4th of July holiday. I am so proud to be an American and live in the greatest country in the world. Thank you to all who sacrificed their life and limb so the rest of us can raise our families in a free country. God Bless the USA.

It continues to be my absolute honor and privilege to serve the people of District 37 in the North Carolina House.

-Representative Erin Paré



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RepErinParé.com



Rep. Paré Leads House Bill Regulating the Sale and Distribution of Illegal Chinese Vaping Products to Combat Youth Vaping 'Epidemic'

Youth vaping has skyrocketed 2600% since 2019, and illegal vaping products,

manufactured almost exclusively in China, have flooded shelves in NC. They are cheaper, fancier, more potent, and not FDA approved. Rep. Paré's bill, HB 900, Certain CIHS Partners/Regulate Tobacco Products, which passed the House and Senate last week, will remove illegal vaping products from the shelves in NC, and bring accountability and enforcement to the dangerous "wild west" of illegal vape sales in NC. The bill is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

"We must protect our kids." said Rep. Paré.



NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICE OF REP. ERIN PARÉ DISTRICT 37 – WAKE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 28, 2024 Contact: Sarah Wetherby 919-733-2962

Rep. Paré Leads House Bill Regulating the Sale and Distribution of Illegal Chinese Vaping Products to Combat Youth Vaping 'Epidemic'

Raleigh - On Wednesday, the General Assembly gave final approval to legislation introduced by Rep. Erin Paré (R-Wake) that regulates the sale and distribution of illegal vaping products in North Carolina. The bill creates a publicly viewable vape registry maintained by the Department of Revenue that would list only the federally approved consumable products and vaping products that are legal for sale in North Carolina.

"When high school-aged youth vaping has skyrocketed 2600% since 2019, and we are seeing more and more widespread use of vaping among kids in middle school, it's time to take action. Vaping has been proven to cause lung damage in otherwise healthy young people, and it's scary to think that no one can be sure what is contained in these illegal vaping products that kids are getting their hands on," said Rep. Erin Paré.

The passage of this bill means hundreds of e-cigarette products could be removed from shelves in North Carolina, and only products that have an affirmative marketing granted order by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration can be sold. Much of the illegal vaping product on store shelves is manufactured in China and not approved for sale in the United States by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

"The youth vaping 'epidemic' is bad and getting worse. But as a parent of teenagers myself, what is really scary is the amount of illegal product that is coming in from out of the country that is flooding the shelves right now in NC," said Rep. Paré. "This problem is unmanageable without a proper tool for accountability, transparency and enforcement, and this bill provides that necessary tool. The passage of this bill will take away a great amount of illegal vaping products from the shelves in NC, and that is a giant step forward in the effort to protect our kids."

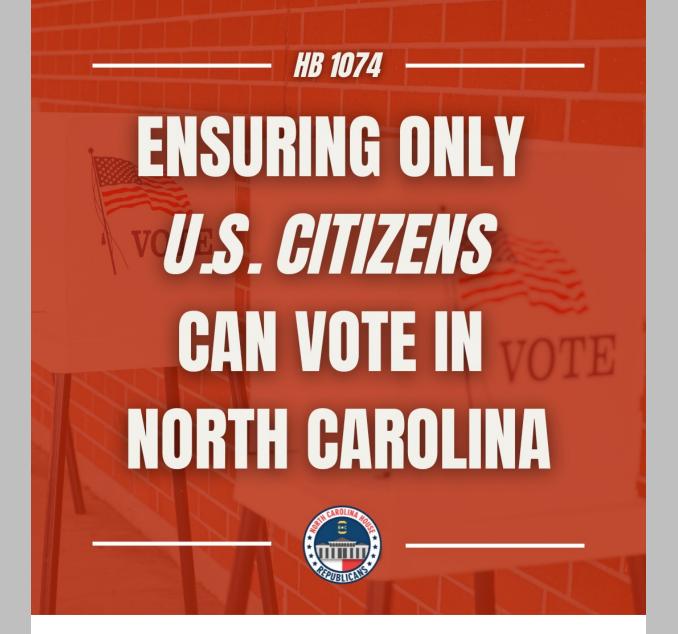
This is not the first time North Carolina has taken action against vape companies. North Carolina won \$47.8 million in a settlement from Juul, after North Carolina challenged how Juul's marketing targeted teenagers.

Stores that are in violation of the law could face fines and/or loss of their business license. According to the bill, the vape registry is set to be complete and available to view by March 1, 2025.

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Constitutional Amendment / Citizens-Only Voting



The General Assembly gave final approval to a proposed constitutional amendment that will make it crystal clear that only U.S. citizens can vote in state and local elections. North Carolinians will now have the opportunity to decide in November whether to add this common-sense measure to our state's constitution.

Rep. Paré stated, "I was proud to support this important piece of legislation and confident the voters of North Carolina will approve this logical step to keep our elections secure from outside influence."

General Assembly Voted to Override Three of the Governor's Vetoes



The General Assembly voted last week to override three more of Gov. Cooper's vetoes, putting the following provisions into law:

- Crack down on masked criminals and protestors obstructing traffic (HB 237)
- Combat gang recruitment of juveniles to commit violent crimes (HB 834)
- Strengthen NC Dept. of Transportation accountability and operations (HB 198)

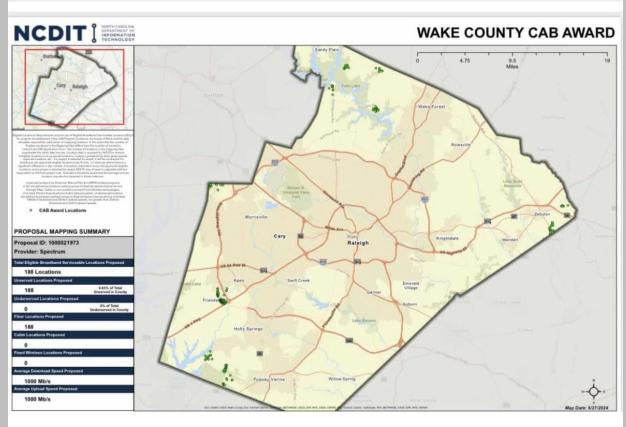
"This session, the General Assembly has successfully overridden all 22 of Gov. Cooper's vetoes. I'm proud to support these common sense measures." Paré said.

High-Speed Internet Expanded to Underserved Areas in Wake County

It may be a surprise that Wake County has areas that are underserved when it comes to high-speed internet access.

The N.C. Department of Information Technology's (NCDIT) Division of Broadband and Digital Equity on Monday announced an additional \$112 million in Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) program projects to connect 25,903 households and businesses in 19 counties to high-speed internet. These projects will be funded by more than \$61 million from the federal American Rescue Plan awarded by NCDIT, more than \$25 million from counties, and nearly \$26 million from selected broadband providers.

The CAB program project award in Wake County will result in building highspeed internet infrastructure to 63 percent of the unserved locations in the county.



Holly Springs Olympic Diver Andrew Capobianco Qualifies for 2024 Olympics



Rep. Paré is very proud of Holly Springs' Andrew Capobianco for clinching his second Olympics. Above is a picture of Andrew when he was recognized by the NC House a couple of years ago for his silver medal in the synchro springboard at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

Congratulations Andrew and the Capobianco family!

Read more here: <u>Capobianco Clinches Second Olympics</u>

Weekly Recap



- Crack down on masked criminals (HB 237) OVERRIDE
- Combat gang recruitment of juveniles (HB 834) OVERRIDE
- Strengthen NCDOT accountability (HB 198) OVERRIDE
- Clarify only U.S. citizens can vote in state elections (HB 1074)
- Improve process for removing squatters from homes (HB 984)
- Authorize pay raises for teachers & school employees (SB 332)
- Extend funding for child care stabilization grants (SB 357)
- Combat antisemitism by defining term in state law (HB 942)
- Increase human trafficking awareness training (HB 971)
- Require officials to investigate claims of invalid voters (HB 1071)
- Protect kids from sexual exploitation & AI sex crimes (HB 591)
- Simplify regulations for farmers & agribusiness (SB 355)
- Prohibit Central Bank Digital Currencies in NC (HB 690)
- Crack down on unregulated Chinese vapes (HB 900)
- Cut unnecessary regulations to encourage job growth (SB 607)
- Collaborate with faith groups for mental health support (HB 982)
- Repeal literacy test requirement from state constitution (HB 44)
- Require disclaimers for AI in political ads (HB 1072)
- Ban the drug tianeptine, known as 'gas station heroin' (HB 250)
- ✓ Improve program expanding rural broadband (SB 743)



While the short session is not officially over, the General Assembly accomplished many great things last week after several busy days that included overriding three of the governor's vetoes and putting a citizen-only voting constitutional amendment on the November ballot. The General Assembly also passed numerous bills to combat antisemitism, remove squatters, support farmers, extend childcare funding and protect children from sexual exploitation. Rep. Paré's bill HB 900 "Certain CIHS Partners/Regulate Tobacco Products" which regulates the sale of illegal Chinese vaping products also passed the General Assembly.

"Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your voice in Raleigh," said Rep. Paré.

SJR 916 "Adjournment Resolution"

On Thursday, the General Assembly adjourned the short session. Members could return to Raleigh each month for the rest of the year to take up unfinished business.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023 RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 2024-2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 916

A JOINT RESOLUTION ADJOURNING THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO A SERIES OF DATES CERTAIN AND PROVIDING FOR THE MATTERS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED UPON RECONVENING ON THOSE DATES AND ADJOURNING THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SINE DIE THEREAFTER.

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

SECTION 1.(a) When the House of Representatives and the Senate adjourn on Friday, June 28, 2024, they stand adjourned to reconvene on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 12:00 noon.

SECTION 1.(b) During the regular session that reconvenes on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, only the following matters may be considered:

- Bills returned by the Governor with his objections under Section 22 of Article
 II of the North Carolina Constitution, but solely for the purpose of considering
 overriding of the veto upon reconsideration of the bill.
- (2) Bills providing for the selection, appointment, or confirmation as required by law, including the filling of vacancies of positions for which the appointees were elected by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or a minority leader of a chamber of the General Assembly.
- (3) Bills providing for action on gubernatorial nominations or appointments.
- (4) Bills responding to actions related to litigation challenging the legality of legislative enactments.
- (5) Any bills relating to election laws, including bills concerning the districts for Congressional, State House, State Senate, judicial, municipal, county, and other elected officials, and containing no other matters.
- (6) Bills providing for impeachment pursuant to Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution or Chapter 123 of the General Statutes.
- Simple resolutions addressing organizational matters of each respective house.
- (8) Adoption of conference reports.
- (9) A joint resolution further adjourning the 2023 Regular Session, amending a joint resolution adjourning the 2023 Regular Session, or adjourning the 2023 Regular Session, sine die.

SECTION 1.1.(a) When the House of Representatives and the Senate adjourn on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, they stand adjourned to reconvene on Monday, July 29, 2024, at 12:00 noon.



2024 House Pages

During the short session, Rep. Paré was able to sponsor three House Pages. The House Page Program offers young men and women the opportunity to learn about, and participate in, the legislative process of our state. It is a four-day-long experience that allows high school students who are currently in grades ten, eleven, or twelve to observe firsthand how our laws are made. It provides them the unique privilege of working in the House Chamber during legislative action.

Thank you to our 2024 Pages: Calvin Hughes, Victoria Sawyer, and Graham

2024 General Assembly Short Session

The 2024 General Assembly Short Session began on April 24th. Rep. Paré has introduced, sponsored, or co-sponsored the House Bills below.

Introduced bills:

HB 900, Certain CIHS Partners/Regulate Tobacco Prod.

HB 909, Various Local Provisions I

HB 1056, PA Licensure Interstate Compact.

Sponsored bills:

HB 903, Add Tianeptine to Controlled Substance List.

HB 942, SHALOM Act.

Co-Sponsored Bills:

HB 905, Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption.

HB 966, Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons.

HB 971, Human Trafficking Changes.

HB 984, Removal of Squatters from Private Property.

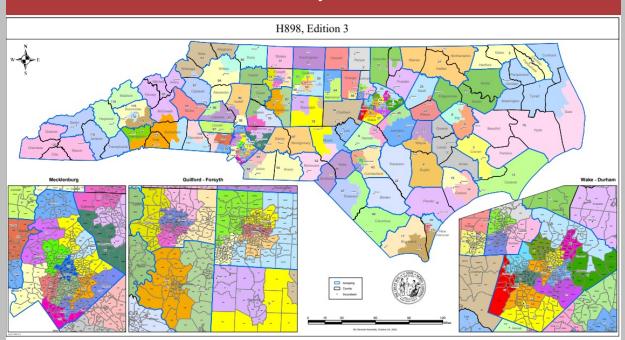
HB 1003, Jt Caucus for IDD/Omnibus.

HB 1029, Right To Try Individualized Treatments.

HB 1044, County Tier Designation Study Bill.

HB 1074, Constitutional Amendment/Citizens-Only Voting.

2024 House, Senate and Congressional District Maps

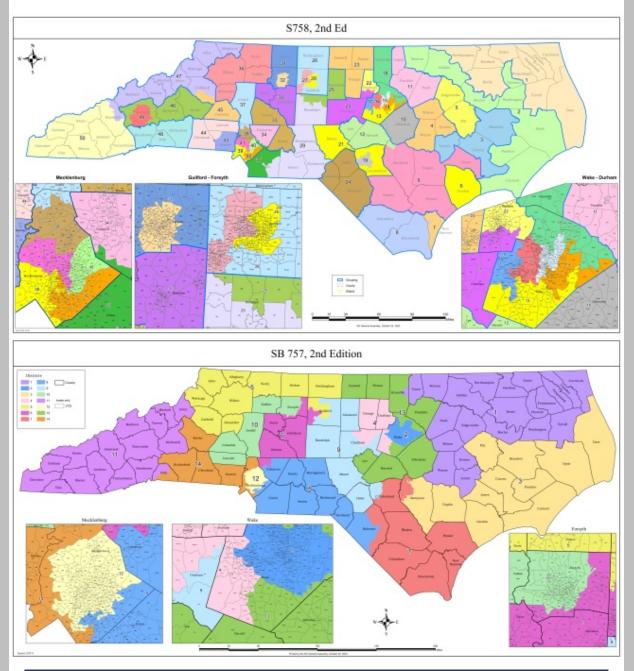


HB 898: House Redistricting Plan 2023/H898 Ed 2 (above).

<u>SB 758</u>: Realign NC Senate Districts 2023/SB758,2 Ed. <u>SB 757</u>: Realign Congressional Districts 2023/CST-4.

To drill down to precinct levels, please click the links above, and click on "19 x 36 Map."

Click <u>here</u> to check your 2024 voting districts by name. Click <u>here</u> to check your current and 2024 districts by address.



News Clips

Cooper signs new law targeting antisemitism, calls for 'a more welcoming' North Carolina – WRAL

With Strong Population Growth Comes Greater Demand For Health Care-Forbes

<u>Lawmakers expand license plate readers, add "gas station heroin" to controlled</u> substance list – **Carolina Journal**

NC lawmakers pass emergency stopgap child care funding- Axios

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



Click Here to Find Out!

Contact



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