Your Government Pages

NC Senate District 46

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It is a busy time at the NC General Assembly. My office has had the opportunity to meet with constituents that are architects, Senior Tarheel legislators, firefighters, physicians, community college students, nurse midwives, engineers, arts educators, District Attorneys, nurse anesthetists, and more! I expect that the next several weeks will be just as lively. Thank you for weighing in on the issues via email, phone conversations, and office visits. One of the most important pieces of legislation the NCGA is focusing on currently is the 2023-24 state budget. The 2023 Appropriations Act passed the House with a strong bipartisan vote of 78-38. The Senate appropriations team will be working on making the House proposal a better budget. I expect that we will have a Senate version to vote on the week of May 15. The Senate budget will go through an amendment process in the Senate Appropriations Committee before a vote by the full Senate. Since the Senate budget proposal will be different from the House version, the House will likely not concur, and a conference committee of senior House and Senate members will hammer out the details to present to both chambers for a final vote. Stay tuned! In early April, the General Assembly successfully overrode the Governor's veto of SB41, a bill designed to protect places of worship, repeal a permit process that was largely duplicative and arbitrarily enforced across our 100 counties, and fund a safe-storage education campaign. The bill passed both chambers then was the first bill vetoed by Governor Cooper this session. The Senate overrode the veto first, then the House. (A 3/5 vote of those present is the threshold for a veto override.) The repeal of the Permit requirement is now law. The provision regarding churches becomes law on December 1, 2023. That provision provides that churches that operate a private school on their campus may allow the concealed carry of firearms to protect their parishioners during services, whenever classes and student activities are not being held. This fixes the gap in current law that only allows churches without schools to have concealed carry. Note that the new law still does not allow the concealed carry of firearms in churches that hold their services in a building owned by the public schools. I again thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you, the citizens of Burke, McDowell, and Buncombe Counties. If I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Raleigh office staff.

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