

June 12, 2026 The Berger Bulletin

Hello and happy Friday!

General Assembly committees are working at full force right now to finish up work in the coming weeks.

The committee process is where the bulk of the legislative legwork happens. It's where members debate the intricacies of the bills, hear from members of the public and relevant stakeholders, and make amendments.

In the Senate, we divide our committees by policy areas, such as education, healthcare, judiciary, transportation, and regulatory reform. If you're ever curious to know what bills are being heard in a certain committee or if you're trying to attend one in person, you can find all of that information on the [General Assembly's website](#). There you can sign up to be notified when committees meet and receive their agendas in your email inbox.

I anticipate committees will continue to work over the next two to three weeks to finish up their work so we can close out the short session in a timely manner.

Beyond committee work, House and Senate budget writers continue to meet to hash out the finer details of the state budget. I met with House Speaker Destin Hall to discuss the budget process and go over some items that have been "kicked up" to us to negotiate.

We're making good progress, and I'm hopeful that we'll be able to consider the full budget in the next few weeks. **Raleigh Rundown** This week, the Senate considered two big proposals — one dealing with social media and AI safety, and the other with how to support our farmers.

[House Bill 301, "Social Media & AI Safety,"](#) puts some commonsense guardrails in place to protect minors from the harmful impacts of social media and requires content standards, policies, and training related to artificial intelligence in schools.

The bill would require certain addictive social media platforms to prohibit minors under 14 years old from having an account on the addictive platform and would prohibit 14- and 15-year-olds from having an account without parental consent. Addictive platforms would be required to terminate the account of any child holding an account in violation of these prohibitions after allowing 30 days to dispute the termination. The Attorney General would have the authority to go after any addictive platform that is found in violation of the prohibition. Addictive platforms would also have to conduct age verification for new accounts using the potential account holder's preference of either anonymous age verification or standard age verification.

The bill now returns to the House of Representatives for consideration.

[Senate Bill 401](#), the General Assembly's annual "Farm Act," includes provisions to support our state's agriculture industry and farmers across the state. The bill passed unanimously in the Senate, and only two members voted against it in the House. Now it's on Gov. Josh Stein's desk for his consideration.

He has 10 days to either sign it, veto it, or let it become law without his signature.

Also on Gov. Stein's desk is my proposal to freeze new property tax values triggered by a revaluation process this year. [Senate Bill 889 simply puts a pause](#) on any new values to give property owners some breathing room after their property values skyrocket this year.

North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

This week, I met with North Carolina Association of County Commissioners President Wallace Nelson and Executive Director Kevin Leonard to discuss their legislative priorities.

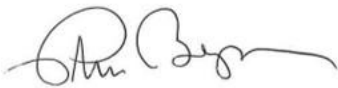
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Please share this newsletter with anyone you know to get the word out about what is happening at the General Assembly.

If you were forwarded this email and would like to receive the newsletter directly, please send me your email and name, and I will add you to my distribution list.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of service. My email is phil.berger@ncleg.gov, or you can call my office at 919-733-5708.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Berger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senator Phil Berger, District 26 | 16 W. Jones Street Room 2007 | Raleigh, NC 27601 US