

February 28, 2025



The Berger Bulletin

Hello and happy Friday,

With the General Assembly back in action, committee meetings are in full swing and the House and Senate are voting on bills.

This week Senate committees heard several bills, including a bill I introduced — [The North Carolina Border Protection Act](#). Every day, North Carolinians are experiencing the harmful impacts of open-border policies — from dangerous drug trafficking to criminal, illegal immigrants being released from jail to roam our streets freely. Last November, the voters made it clear that they would no longer tolerate sanctuary policies that put them at risk. This bill sends an equally strong message by requiring Gov. Stein's administration to cooperate with immigration officials.

Here's more information about what the bill does:

- Require state law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Public Safety, Department of Adult Correction, the State Highway Patrol, and the State Bureau of Investigation, to enter into memorandums of agreement (MOAs) with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to fully cooperate with immigration laws.
- Those law enforcement agencies would also be required to determine the immigration status of any person in its custody or under its supervision.
- The Office of State Budget and Management would be required to determine whether, and to what extent, certain state-funded public benefit programs are being provided to unauthorized immigrants and post its findings publicly.
- The OSBM would then be required to take steps to ensure that state-funded public benefits are only being provided to those who qualify for it.
- While Sanctuary City policies are already prohibited in the state, municipalities across the state continue to defy the state law. To hold them accountable, any county or municipality that creates Sanctuary Cities will have its local immunity waived, thereby allowing citizens harmed by illegal immigrants to sue them.
- Finally, it prohibits UNC System campuses from adopting any policy that does not cooperate with federal immigration enforcement and/or adopting sanctuary school policies.

The other 29 members of the Republican caucus signed on as sponsors. Unsurprisingly, no Democrats have joined us. I anticipate us voting on the bill early next week.

Beyond that bill, we also heard proposals to restrict the use of [cell phones and other wireless communication devices in classrooms](#) and [curtail the state attorney general's ability to weaponize his office's resources for political gain](#).

[Visit the NCGA's Website](#)

The Raleigh Rundown

Since the legislative session kicked off, I've been busy visiting with constituents who stop by the office to talk about issues impacting them and things they're interested in.

I've been attending other events with legislators to hear about their priorities for the session.



The FIRST FRC Robotics Team 2640 visited my office earlier this month with its competition robot. The team is made up of local Rockingham County students. It was great to hear about how the hands-on experiences they got working on the robot helped shape their future career goals and learn about all of the coding and engineering that goes into building a competition robot.



This week local officials from across the state visited the



Later that night legislators joined the local elected officials for a

General Assembly for the Town and State Dinner.

Prior to the dinner local elected officials spent time with their counterparts in the legislature to discuss their needs and any pressing issues.

I had the chance to meet with the Reidsville City Council and Mayor Gorham during the day and give them a tour of the Senate Chamber.

more formal dinner. It was a great opportunity to meet and mingle with leaders from Murphy to Manteo.

During the dinner, the North Carolina League of Municipalities brought the legislative leaders together from both chambers to discuss the upcoming session and what bills people can expect to see. The questions this year focused on fiscal responsibility, infrastructure needs, and Hurricane Helene recovery.

Setting the Record Straight

Y'all might have heard about [Senate Bill 58](#), which restricts the state attorney general's ability to abuse his office for political gain. Over the past decade, we've seen the N.C. Department of Justice weaponized to fit the political needs of the attorney general.

Instead of defending state law, recent attorneys general have used their position to pursue litigation that fit their political and policy preferences. In other instances, they outright declined to defend the law. That is nothing short of a dereliction of duty.

By using the DOJ as a political stepping stone, the attorney general is wasting taxpayer money chasing national headlines. The attorney general should be focused on the most pressing issues in the state, not what will boost his notoriety with future liberal donors.

It is well within the interest of the General Assembly to set parameters around what the attorney general can do. The North Carolina constitution provides that the attorney general's duties "shall be prescribed by law"— meaning the legislature decides the authority.

A better use of the attorney general's time is concentrating on fighting crime here in the state and defending state laws.

Out and About

Last week I had the opportunity to visit the children's hospital in Atlanta to get a sense of what North Carolina's future children's hospital could look like.

[Learn more about N.C. Children's](#)



In The News



N&O: [Republicans push for Stein to cooperate with Trump on immigration. Where does NC stand?](#)

Spectrum News Podcast: [Getting candid with Republican Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger](#)

WUNC: [NC Senate leader dismisses concerns that tax cuts could create 'fiscal cliff'](#)

N&O: [Top NC Republicans back legislation to allow concealed handguns without a permit](#)



Thank you for reading!

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with what has been happening in the General Assembly. 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,



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