



Newsletter
From
Rep. Angela Bryant

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Governor Perdue, Rep. Bryant and other members of the General Assembly attend the Racial Justice Act bill signing at the Old Capitol Building in Raleigh on August 11, 2009.

I hope you will continue to let me know how you feel about the issues that are being debated by the North Carolina General Assembly and the challenges you and your family are facing each day. By working together, we can make District 7 and all regions of North Carolina a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sections Below:

- *In the District (Area Grant Received; Area Events)*
- *Ethics Tip – (501(c) (3))*
- *Governor Perdue Appointments from Halifax and Nash Counties (Anthony W. Brown; Casey Armstrong; Randy D. Powell; Frederick Webb, Jr.)*
- *For Your Information (N.C. Recognized for Increased College Participation of Low-Income Students; 2009 Student Leadership Conference; Mentors Needed- MATCH; Transferring Among NC Colleges and Universities; CFNC Matches almost 1,000 “Last Minute” Applicants with Colleges; Increase in NC Financial Aid; Transferring Among NC Colleges and University Now Easier with CFNC.org. The F.L.O.A.T.; Weatherization Assistance Program; Univ. of Maryland Young Scholars Program; Merck & Co. Inc. Patients Assistance Program; BCBSNC Health Health of Vulnerable Populations Funding Opportunities)*

- *Job Service Bulletin (Halifax county)*
- *Rocky Mount leads NC in Aging Workforce Participation*
- *At the Legislature (Rep. Bryant's Bills that Passed the House and the Senate; Bryant's Cosponsored Bills; Bills of Interest; All Bills that have become law to July 17 - 30 2009)*
- *A Moment of Gratitude (Diane Cherry; Tom Vitaglione; Albert LaRose; Billy Ray Hall; Jim McCafferty)*

Area Grant Received

- Nash Community College has just been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. The Project Skill-Up grant will assist displaced workers and others affected by the changes in the tobacco industry. It will target adults who want to increase their knowledge and skills for agricultural related job stimulus training programs.

Area Events

- **Praise On Stage** - every Sunday afternoon 2:00pm - 4pm in center court. Come spend a rejuvenating Sunday afternoon celebrating small group Praise and Gospel music, a light lunch, or refreshment from the "Bistro.
- **Transportation Survey Being Conducted in Halifax County** The Transportation Planning Branch of NCDOT, in cooperation with Halifax County is developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for the county. The CTP is a long-range plan that identifies major transportation improvements that will be needed over the next 25 to 30 years. As part of the study to develop the plan, this month and until August 14, NCDOT is conducting a public survey regarding transportation needs in Halifax County. Input from the survey will be used to determine transportation issues that are important to the citizens, officials, and businesses of the county, and will be used in developing the plan. **Survey forms will be available for pick-up at various locations throughout the county, such as post offices or town halls. For Halifax County citizens who would like to participate online, they may submit their input by going to the following web site: www.surveymonkey.com/halifaxcountysurvey. For more information contact Ann Whitley at 252-234-5967.**
- **The 2nd Emergency Services Banquet/ Fundraiser**, Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Gateway Convention Center in Rocky Mount. Tickets will be sold in advance with no ticket sale at the door. Each ticket will admit 1 person and include assorted hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, and good fellowship. Ticket cost will be \$25 for one person or \$40 a couple. There will a Poker tournament Hosted by, Lee Crocker of the WPT-APL and door prizes. All profits will go to My Sisters House and UNC North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center. For information contact Matt Hux a 252-446-9661.

Ethics Tip

A legislator may permit a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to use that legislator's public position in a charitable solicitation. G.S. 138A-31(b).

Please contact the State Ethics Commission at 715-2071 if there are any questions.

GOV. PERDUE APPOINTMENTS FROM HALIFAX AND NASH COUNTIES

Anthony (Tony) W. Brown - Court bench for the 7th Judicial District

Governor Bev Perdue appointed Anthony (Tony) W. Brown to the District Court bench for the 7th Judicial District for Nash, Wilson and Edgecombe counties. Brown replaces Judge Robert Evans who was appointed District Attorney for the 7th District.

Prior to his legal career, Brown was a juvenile court counselor. He started his legal career as a private practitioner in Rocky Mount and Oxford, N.C. He spent six years as an assistant district attorney in the district and is currently a solo practitioner in Rocky Mount engaged in the representation of civil and criminal clients. He is active in the community, serving as a church deacon and attorney for the Nash County Democratic Party.

Brown received is a graduate of Morehouse College and he received his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

CASEY ARMSTRONG – NC STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Governor Perdue appointed Ms. Casey M. Armstrong, of Enfield, to the NC State Board of Agriculture. The board is the primary rulemaking body for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The board adopts rules for implementing laws relating to animal health, plant pests, and food safety and sets rental rates for state-owned farmers markets and State Fair facilities.

Armstrong is the former president of the North Carolina Horse Council. She currently serves on the North Carolina Horse Council Board of Directors. She is active in the community, serving as a volunteer for the North Carolina Baptist Men's Disaster Relief.

Armstrong is a graduate of Meredith College.

RANDY DALE POWELL – NC COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Governor Perdue reappointed Randy Dale Powell, of Rocky Mount, to the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. The council advises the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services on coordinating, planning and delivery of state-funded programs that provide service to persons with developmental disabilities.

Powell is the president of the Citizens Together Advocacy Group. He volunteers his time lobbying for the rights for people with disabilities.

Powell is a graduate of Shaw University.

FREDERICK WEBB JR. – HALIFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Governor Perdue appointed Frederick Webb, Jr., of Scotland Neck, to the Halifax Community College Board of Trustees. Board duties are to elect the president, employ personnel, purchase land necessary for the operation of the college, apply standards for admission and graduation, provide for the administration of all educational and occupational services, and to establish or enter into public or private partnerships for the support of the institution.

Webb is a former board member of Halifax Community College. He has also served as a board member for the Choanoke Area Development Association, where he coordinated the Governor's Mentoring Program.

Webb is a graduate of North Carolina A&T University.

For Your Information

- **2009 Healthy Community Institute for Nonprofit Excellence:** Join the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation for the Fall 2009 Healthy Community Institute for Nonprofit Excellence on Oct. 13-14 in Concord, NC. The estimated value of this unique capacity building training is in excess of \$2,500 per organization; however, the training is offered at no charge to participants. You are only responsible for your transportation, lodging and parking fees. Registration deadline is September 25, 2009. Acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis, and only 50 organizations will be accepted. For additional information and the link to register go to: <http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/community-impact/healthy-community-institute/>. Address questions to Jill Mallatratt at 919.765.7347 or jill.mallatratt@bcbsncfoundation.org.
- **N.C. Recognized for Increased College Participation of Low-Income Students:** North Carolina had the second highest increase in college participation rates for students from low-income families in the U.S. from 1999 to 2007, according to Postsecondary Education Opportunity, an independent research organization. N.C.
- **Mentors Needed – Mentoring Activities Tailored for Children in Halifax (MATCH),** - MATCH is seeking loving, caring, positive role models to make a difference in the lives of boys and girls in Halifax County. Volunteers are asked to do complete an application, pass a background check and attend Mentor's Training. Contact: 252-445-5455 ext. 225.
- **Youth Violence Prevention Month** - The Rocky Mount City Council adopted the GRASPP Peace Initiative and proclaimed the month of November as Youth Violence Prevention Month! This is a victory in the prevention and education work for gangs and youth violence. Please help brainstorm ways to celebrate and kick-off Youth Violence Prevention Month! By creating campaigns around gangs and youth violence prevention, you can help educate the community on the impact of gangs and how early prevention strategies can make a difference. To join, please contact Cynthia L. Jackson, MA, MFTI at 252 937-2213 ext. 108 or grasp@rockymountnc.com. Please visit their website at www.grasppforpeace.org.
- **Transferring Among NC Colleges and University Now Easier with CFNC.org** - College students thinking of transferring from one North Carolina college or University to another have a new online tool at CFNC.org to check how their college credit may transfer.

- **The F.L.O.A.T. Alliance (Females Learning to Overcome All Temptations) Meetings:** Every second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at SWIM's Healing Place (327 Eastern Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC 27802). Anyone that provides support, programs, services, employment and trainings for female ex-offenders are welcome to participate. Please call (252) 972-7946 to register.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program** – is a program to assist people with weatherizing their homes, is accepting applications. Applications can be picked up Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Mark AME Church, 1150 Tarboro St. between the hours of 10:00am – 3:00pm. Applications may be picked up on Thursdays at the Nash County Extension Center. For information call 252-977-7941. For information on the Halifax Weatherization Program please contact Gail Walker at (252) 537-1111.
- **University of Maryland Young Scholars Program** targets rising juniors and seniors who have a strong academic record and a desire to excel to experience college life while earning three academic credits. Fourteen courses are offered for three weeks. Visit www.ysp.umd.edu/pr.
- **Merck & Co., Inc Patients Assistance Program** will allow many more people to receive Merck medicines for free. Patients who lack prescription drug insurance may now be eligible for the Merck Patient Assistance Program if their household income is at or below 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) which is set by the US government. Merck & Co., Inc. also has a simple enrollment process and offers free delivery of Merck medicines for enrolled patients to their home or doctor's office for up to one year. Visit www.MerckHelps.com or call Craig M. Hansen at 800-787-5400 for forms and information.

**Job Service Bulletin (Halifax County)
Employment Security Commission/JobLink**

One hundred fifty-eight clients found jobs through the Roanoke Rapids Employment Security Commission/JobLink for the month of July, 2009. Also, during July, ESC/JobLink processed seven hundred thirty-five applications for employment. The unemployment rate for Halifax County is 14.6 percent compared with a statewide rate of 11.1 percent. Northampton County's rate is 11.2 percent.

Current job openings are on file in the following areas outpatient therapist, Nutritionist II, lead day care teacher, office manager, assistant retail managers, case assistant coordinator, habilitation technician, Certified Nurse Aides, quality control manager, HVAC installer, maintenance electricians, fuels service installer, and tractor trailer truck drivers.

For more information about these jobs and others, visit the Employment Security Commission/JobLink from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. Employers may call 537-4188 or fax 535-7943 to list job openings. Registered applicants may call the JOBS line at 535-9001 to inquire about job openings. ESC's Internet address, which contains both job listings and applicant listings, is www.ncesc.com. Contact Tommy McKnight, ESC/JobLink Manager, at 537-4188 for further information.

Rocky Mount leads North Carolina in Aging Workforce Participation

Scott, John C., and Andrew Sharma. "The Aging Workforce in Carolina: Challenges and Opportunities." Carolina Context June 2009: 2+.

Labor Force Participation

Of metropolitan areas in North Carolina, in terms of the proportion of the population ages 55-and-older in the workforce, Rocky Mount leads with nearly 50% participation. In contrast, Greenville and Wilmington lags with fewer than 30% of their older population in the workforce. While the reason for this gap is not completely clear, the industrial makeup of each area maybe a factor.

While older workers can be found in all industry groups, they are concentrated in certain sectors. in terms of top industries, persons aged 50 to 59 comprise 33% of the workforce in food manufacturing, 27.9% in transportation equipment manufacturing, and 24.3% in social assistance. The 60 and older age cohort represented 18.7% of the workforce in textile, apparel and leather manufacturing, 17.3% in membership associations, and 16.8% in real estate. Moreover, workers aged 55 to 64 comprise the second largest age group among the self-employed, but this may reflect in part an inability to find work with an employer.

State government in particular is experiencing significant workforce aging. In 2006, 26.3% of the state government workforce was over the age of 55, making North Carolina the 7th oldest state in terms of an aging public sector workforce. In contrast, only 11.8% of workers in the private sector were aged 55 and older.

Policy Recommendations on how the state can play an active role in facilitating increased labor force participation by older North Carolinians:

1. A state-level review of (a) barriers to hiring and retaining older workers in both private and public sectors and (b) models of aging-friendly workplace practices would illuminate ways to help older workers remain in the workforce when they so choose. This review should incorporate the perspectives of employers, public agency managers, and older workers.
2. The North Carolina Department of Commerce could develop a volunteer training and counselor program, modeled after the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), that would provide job counseling to older adults and be available at venues that are accessible to the older population.
3. Tax incentives for employers who hire and retain older workers. This would not only boost productivity for the North Carolina economy, but also save the state on expenditures for unemployed or underemployed older adults.
4. North Carolina should advocate for increased federal funding of workforce training and development. Poverty among the elderly occurs more frequently among persons with low levels of education.

Moving Forward

The aging of the North Carolina workforce represents both a challenge and an opportunity. Older populations in general are more likely to draw public services, and an aging workforce may result in workforce shortages, underemployment, and a need for training and upgraded skills. However, older workers likely represent an underutilized productivity in industries facing a shortage of qualified workers and a critical source of knowledge. Exploring ways to encourage continued work at older ages is likely to provide important payoffs for workers, employers, and for North Carolina not just during the current downturn but over the long term when the economy improves.

At the Legislature

Bills of Interest

HB137 - Capital Procedure/Severe Mental Disability - An act to amend the capital trial, sentencing, and post-conviction procedures for a person with a severe mental disability and to authorize the use of certain funds to provide judicial training with regard to the legal requirements of these procedures.

HB594 - Increase Disabled Vet Property Tax Exclusion - An act to increase the disabled veteran property tax homestead exclusion.

H804 - Amend Law Regarding Personal Education Plans - An act to amend the law regarding personal education plans for students at risk of academic failure.

HB1078 - Report School Violence to Superintendent/Required Notification Policy - An act to ensure that acts of violence in schools are reported to the local Superintendent or the Superintendents designee and to require local boards of education to adopt a policy on notification to the parents or legal guardians of students alleged to be victims of any act required to be reported to law enforcement and the superintendent.

HB1166 - Insurance Law Changes - An act to make various changes in the laws governing insurance producers and brokers, bail bondsmen, motor clubs, premium finance companies, and collection agencies, and to delete obsolete references to assignments of error.

HB1296 - Establish Drug and Medical Device Repository/BOP - An act to establish the drug, supplies, and medical device repository program in the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy.

S167 - No Smoking/Cell Phones on Prison Grounds - An act to prohibit smoking on the premises of correctional institutions, to prohibit the possession of tobacco products or cell phones outside of a locked vehicle on the premises of correctional institutions, to make it a criminal offense to provide tobacco products or cell phones to inmates in the custody of the department of correction or a local confinement facility, and to make it a criminal offense for inmates of a local confinement facility to possess tobacco products or cell phones.

SB464 - Prevent Racial Profiling - An act to amend the law requiring the collection of traffic law enforcement statistics in order to prevent racial profiling and to provide for the care of minor children when present at the arrest of certain adults.

SB618 - Urban Revitalization Made Uniform - An act to allow all municipalities to participate in urban area revitalization projects under the municipal service district act of 1973.

SB660 - Auto Insurance/Diminution in Value - An Act to provide an alternative method of determining property damages as a part of motor vehicle liability insurance.

S726 - Amend House Arrest Laws/Adult/Juvenile - An act to provide that house arrest may be imposed as a condition of pretrial release; to provide that the court may authorize an offender under electronic house arrest to leave the offender's residence for specific purposes and the court or probation officer may modify those conditions; and to amend the definition of house arrest under juvenile law to state the specific purpose for which a juvenile may be authorized to leave the juvenile's residence.

SB955 - Bicycle Lights at Night - An act to require that bicycles have visible lights on the front and rear of the bicycle, or on the person operating the bicycle, when operated during the period from sunset to sunrise on a street, highway, or public vehicular area, and to require the report of a crash involving a motor vehicle and a bicycle where the total property damage exceeds five hundred dollars.

SB1006 - Withholding on Contractors Identified by ITIN - An act to require withholding on contractors identified by an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN).

Public Safety

_State lawmakers have approved legislation that will reform probation in North Carolina by giving probation officers more tools to keep offenders from getting into further trouble ([SB 920](#)). If enacted, probation officers

would be added to the list of persons who are allowed to access the juvenile records of certain offenders. The legislation would also make warrantless searches and drug screening regular conditions of supervised parole and would add additional controlling measures for offenders subject to intermediate punishment. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_State lawmakers have passed a bill intended to help prevent racial profiling by law officers by changing how they collect traffic statistics ([SB 464](#)). The legislation also provides that when a law enforcement officer arrests an adult who is supervising minor children, the minors must be placed with a responsible adult approved by the parent or guardian. If it is not possible to place the minor children with a responsible adult within a reasonable period of time, the officer shall contact the county department of social services. The bill now returns to the Senate for a concurrence motion.

_The General Assembly has ratified legislation that clarifies that people who use defibrillators in emergencies aren't liable for damages unless they displayed gross negligence ([HB 1433](#)). The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_The General Assembly has ratified legislation that would strengthen domestic violence laws by providing protection for the pets of abused persons. ([SB 1062](#)). Opponents of the bill say that the legislation is evidence of political correctness going too far. However, proponents of the legislation contend that the bill is meant to protect human beings more than animals. In domestic violence cases, there have been some instances in which abusers threaten violence toward a family pet as a means of manipulating their victims. In extreme cases, abusers have tortured or killed pets. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

Protecting Homeowners

_The Statutory Homestead Exemption would be significantly increased under a bill that has been ratified by the General Assembly and sent to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law ([HB 1058](#)). The legislation increases the exemption from \$18,500 to \$35,000.

Improving Government

_The General Assembly has ratified legislation that will require all cities, counties and other local units of government to adopt a code of ethics for their governing boards ([HB 1452](#)). The legislation would also require members of those boards to receive education on ethics laws applicable to local government officials. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_A bill that would improve North Carolina's absentee voting laws, especially the ability of military and overseas voters to cast timely ballots, has been approved by the House ([SB 253](#)). If enacted, the bill would open up absentee voting 10 days earlier in even-numbered years to 60 days and not later than 50 days before the primary or any other election. In the case of municipal elections, voting would open no later than 30 days before an election. The bill will now return to the Senate for a concurrence motion.

Miscellaneous

_Legislation that would establish requirements for certification of persons performing lead-based paint renovation work in certain residential housing and child-occupied facilities has passed the House and is now pending in the Senate ([HB 1151](#)). If enacted, the legislation would also require accreditation of renovation trainers and renovation training courses.

(Rep. Farmer-Butterfield)

_The General Assembly has ratified legislation that would establish the Drug, Supplies, and Medical Device Repository Program in the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy ([HB 1296](#)). The program would allow donations of unused drugs, supplies, and medical devices to uninsured and underinsured patients in this state. The donations would go to a free clinic or pharmacy and be redistributed. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law. (Rep. Randy Stewart).

_State lawmakers have passed a bill that will provide the same protections to search and rescue animals as those provided to law enforcement agency animals and animals that assist the disabled ([HB 1098](#)). Under the legislation, any person who knows or has reason to know that an animal is a search and rescue animal and who willfully kills that animal will be guilty of a Class H felony. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_North Carolina residents over age 18 would be allowed to get a motorcycle learner's permit without taking a rider safety course under a bill that has been approved by both bodies of the Legislature ([SB 64](#)). Under the bill, the learner's permit would be valid for 12 months and could be renewed for one additional six-month period. The bill will now return to the Senate for a concurrence motion.

Session Laws enacted as of 7/17/2009-7/30/2009

| Bryant's Cosponsored Bills | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Bill | Short Title | Action | Date | Action Text |
| H535 | Health Insurance Coverage/Lymphedema. | R | 07/17/2009 | Ch. SL 2009-313 |
| H447 | Extend IDS Copy Exemption. | R | 07/17/2009 | Ch. SL 2009-317 |
| H187 (= S321) | Encourage Policies to Facilitate Graduation. | R | 07/24/2009 | Ch. SL 2009-330 |
| H1296 | Est. Drug And Medical Device Repository/BOP. | H | 07/30/2009 | Pres. To Gov. 7/30/2009 |

A Moment of Gratitude

I want to congratulate you for shepherding HB 1481 (moving the energy functions to DOC and reworking the Energy Policy Council) through the House and getting it through the Senate and ratified. I know you must be as excited as we are about the energy leadership this provides the state.

Diane Cherry, Manager of Policy Initiatives
Institute for Emerging Issues

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts to secure passage of the Prevent Racial Profiling bill without amendments to Section 2. When a minor is present during an arrest, we will now have a standard that is high, clear and explicit. The protection of children will be maximized, and the liability of law enforcement officers

will be minimized. It was surprising that so many of your colleagues needed “convincing.” We admire your perseverance and skill during the tortuous process. You are truly a champion for children.

Tom Vitaglione, Senior Fellow
Action for Children North Carolina

I don't like the broad based resistance to a progressive tax system (or any tax for that matter) and the concomitant sacrifice of social support services, but hope expressing that dissatisfaction doesn't cloud my great appreciation for your very hard work and your principled and enlightened stances.

Albert LaRose

On behalf of the Rural Center and the people of rural North Carolina I personally thank you for your support throughout this session's budget process. I greatly appreciate all you have done to ensure that we have the resources needed to carrying out our mission. Again, I thank you and look forward to working with you in the future. As always if I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Billy Ray Hall

I am writing to thank you for your support of House Bill 1305, the Beach Plan reform bill. As Wayne Goodwin, the Insurance Commissioner of our great state said, “The North Carolina Beach Plan is a ticking time bomb.” And as one would expect, dealing with a “ticking time bomb” takes wisdom and courage. Thank you for employing both. The passing of this bill will help homeowners from Cape Hatteras to Cherokee. One of the desired outcomes of this bill was that private insurance companies would start writing more property in North Carolina. As President of the Members Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of AAA Carolinas, I'm excited to announce that beginning September 2009, TMIC will offer residential property insurance for homeowners throughout the state of North Carolina. So this proves that the bill you supported is bringing capacity back into the marketplace. Furthermore, I believe other carriers will follow our lead and begin writing property insurance again. Again, thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Jim McCafferty, President
The Members Insurance Company