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## For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's New Laws Effective December 1

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**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:06 PM



**From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate**  
Mecklenburg County



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Thursday, December 21, 2017

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**New Laws Effective December 1**

**Charlotte, NC** – Several new laws went into effect on December 1. Here is an overview of some of the new legislation:

**Prohibit Drone Use Over Prison/Jail:** House Bill 128/S.L. 2017-179 bans drones from the airspace 250 feet over or 500 feet outside prisons, jails, or other correctional facilities. The penalties for violating this law range from a Class 1 misdemeanor and a fine of \$500 to a Class H felony and a fine of \$1,500. This law also directs the Division of Aviation of the Department of Transportation to petition the Federal Aviation Administration to designate these facilities as fixed-site facilities, and to develop the guidelines for facility boundary notices. This legislation was signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper on July 25.

**Revise Gang Laws:** House Bill 138/S.L. 2017-194 makes changes to the laws governing criminal gang activity to create criteria for the classification of criminal gang membership; create a sentencing enhancement for certain crimes committed by gang members; and increase the penalties for certain gang-related offenses. Governor Cooper signed this bill into law on July 27.

**Regulation of Fully Autonomous Vehicles:** House Bill 469/S.L. 2017-166 regulates fully autonomous vehicles and makes changes to various existing motor vehicle laws. Fully autonomous vehicles have an automated driving system without a human driver. A driver's license is not required to operate these vehicles. The registered vehicle owner is responsible for moving violations involving the vehicle. This legislation was signed into law by Governor Cooper on July 21.

**“These bills help to guarantee the safety of citizens within this State. I look forward to the new year and continuing to support legislation that protects and promotes the well-being of every North Carolinian,”** said Senator Joyce Waddell.



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