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Senator Waddell's March Newsletter

Jyrta Moore (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 6:05 PM

To: Steve Johnston



Representing Mecklenburg County District 40

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Volume II March 31, 2015

2015-2016 Committee Assignment

- Appropriations on:
Education /
Higher Education
- Commerce
- Finance
- Insurance
- Pensions &
Retirement and
Aging
- State and Local
Government
- Workforce and
Economic
Development

Dear Friends,

As the 2015 session continues I would like to share progress on what we've done so far. We have made great strides here in Raleigh and we are working hard to ensure a better future for all of our citizens. I continue my mission as your elected official to ensure that all voices are heard and represented; I hear you loud and clear on your concerns. I am committed to promoting legislative issues for Senate District 40 and Mecklenburg County constituents.

Sincerely,
Senator Joyce Waddell
40th Senatorial District

In The News

Legislative News

Will \$21.5 Billion Leave Veteran Teachers Behind?

Principals, students and advocacy group are concerned about Governor Pat McCrory's \$21.5 billion budget. The budget includes 12 billion for K12 education. That includes a \$2,000 raise for first year teachers but doesn't include significant raises for veteran teachers. "Take care of these people who have devoted their lives to our children," Myers Park High School Principal Mark Bosco said. Bosco told WBTB that Myers Park has about 55% veteran teachers, but he says that number is shrinking. "I have a teacher right now," Bosco says, "who is an asset to us. He teaches chemistry. He can't make ends meet, so he is going back to Grad School UNC Charlotte to try to become an

engineer.”

SB20 Senate Rejects House Gas Tax Changes

The state Senate, as expected as rejected the House’s changes to Senate Bill 20, which focuses foremost on the state’s motor fuels tax. The 39-4 vote Monday night against— with no Republicans in favor of accepting changes — sets the stage for a conference committee to come up with a new version of the bill. To further the complicate the matter, House Bill 203 was introduced Tuesday by four Republican sponsors with goals of replacing the motor fuels tax with a transportation usage fee of \$201 annually, to be collected by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles.

HB117 Senate Debates N.C. Competes Act

After passing the House with bipartisan, Gov. Pat McCrory’s stimulus budget bill, NC Competes, has moved to the Senate for further debate. After being originally assigned to the Senate Rules Committee it has since been withdrawn and reassigned for debate in the Senate Finance Committee. Senate Leadership has already expressed apprehension regarding the business incentives portion of the bill, instead submitting their own proposal that would cut tax rates for businesses rather than luring them with incentives. A member of the North Carolina Finance Department spoke last week to the Senate Finance committee about the current benefits of incentives but seemed to have little effect on the co-chairmen of the committee.

Senator Waddell’s Introduced Bills

S39

State Minimum Wage/Inflation Increases.

Introduced to the Senate 02/05/2015

Re-referred to Commerce committee 03/09/2015

S202

Reenact Preservation Rehab Tax

Credits.

Introduced to the

Senate 03/09/2015

Re-referred to committee On Finance 03/18/2015

S51

UNC Energy Savings Projects.

Introduced to the Senate 02/10/2015

Re-referred to Commerce ,If fav, re-referred to

Finance 03/09/2015

S204

Reenact Film Credit.

Introduced to the

Senate 03/09/2015

Re-referred to committee On Finance 03/18/2015

S137

Charlotte Firefighters' Retirement.

Introduced to

the Senate 03/02/2015

Re-referred to committee On Pensions & Retirement

and Aging 03/09/2015

S207

Aggravating Factor/Violent Act Before

Minor.

Introduced to the

Senate

Re-referred to Commerce committee

S147

Equal Rights Amendment.

Introduced to

the Senate 03/03/2015

Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of

the Senate 03/04/2015

S208

Property Insurance Fairness.

Introduced to the Senate 03/10/2015

Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of the

Senate 03/11/2015

S152

Sales Tax Exemption-Agricultural Fairs. Introduced to

the Senate 03/03/2015

Re-referred to committee On Finance 03/09/2015

S209

Responsible Breeding/Prevent Cruelty. Introduced to

the Senate 03/10/2015

Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of the

Senate 03/11/2015

S182

Automatic License Plate Readers. Introduced to the

Senate 03/04/2015

Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of

the Senate 03/05/2015

S224

40th Senatorial District Local Act-1. Introduced to

the Senate 03/10/2015

Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of the

Senate 03/11/2015

S227

Repeal Auto Adjust/Campaign

Contributions.

Introduced to the

Senate 03/10/2015

Referred to committee On Redistricting 03/23/2015

S276

Bereavement Leave/State and School

Employees.

Introduced to the

Senate 03/12/2015

Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of the

Senate 03/16/2015

S232

Honor Girl Scouts.

Introduced to the

Senate 03/10/2015

Adopted 03/11/2015

S277

Restore Educational Sales Tax Holiday. Introduced to

the Senate 03/12/2015

Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of the

Senate 03/16/2015

S233

Automatic Expunction/Mistaken

Identity.

Introduced to the

Senate 03/10/2015

Re-referred to Committee On Judiciary 03/23/2015

S268

Regulate the Sale of E-Liquid Containers.

Introduced to the Senate 03/12/2015

Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of the

Senate 03/16/2015

[S237](#)
[Education-Based Salary Supplements.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/10/2015
 Referred to committee On Appropriations/Base Budget 03/23/2015

[S290](#)
[Allow Early Refills of Prescription Eye Drops.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/16/2015
 Re-referred to Health Care. If fav, re-referred to Appropriations/Base Budget 03/23/2015

[S238](#)
[Stalking by GPS/Criminal Offense.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/10/2015
 Referred to committee On Judiciary II 03/23/2015

[S293](#)
[OK to Align School and Comm. Coll. Calendar.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/16/2015
 Re-referred to committee On Ways & Means 03/17/2015

[S267](#)
[School Calendar Flex./Charlotte-Mecklenburg.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/11/2015
 Referred to committee On Ways & Means 03/12/2015

[S296](#)
[Healthy Food Small Retailer/Corner Store Act.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/17/2015
 Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Health Care 03/25/15

[S275](#)
[Reenact EITC.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/12/2015
 Referred to committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate 03/16/2015

[S305](#)
[NCEMPA Asset Sale.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/17/2015
 Re-referred to On Finance 03/26/2015

[S310](#)
[Domestic Violence/Bail & Aggravating Factor.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/17/2015
 Re-referred Com On Judiciary I 03/24/2015

[S362](#)
[Amend Certain Expunction Laws.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/23/2015
 Re-referred to Committee On Judiciary II 03/26/2015

[S313](#)
[License Plate/Retired Register of Deeds.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/17/2015
 Re-referred Committee On Transportation 03/24/2015

[S363](#)
[Expand Outdoor Food Service at Public Events.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/23/2015
 Re-referred to Health Care. If fav, re-referred to Commerce 03/26/2015

[S319](#)
[Chiropractor Co-Pay Parity.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/17/2015
 Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate 03/18/2015

[S365](#)
[Expand Medicaid to All Below 133% FPL/Funds.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/23/2015
 Referred to Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate 03/24/2015

[S339](#)
[Healthy Families & Workplaces/Paid Sick Days.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/19/2015
 Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate 03/23/2015

[S383](#)
[Study/Fund Improvements to I-95.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/24/2015
 Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate 03/25/2015

[S342](#)
[Econ. Dev./JDIG Extension.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/19/2015
 Re-referred to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Commerce 03/25/2015

[S384](#)
[Increase Pay/Experienced Teachers.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/24/2015
 Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate 03/25/2015

[S347](#)
[Up Minimum Wage With COLA/Const. Amendment.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/19/2015
 Referred To Committee On Commerce 03/23/2015

[S406](#)
[Repeal Fee for Apprenticeship Programs.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/24/2015
 Re-referred to Commerce. If fav, re-ref to Finance 03/26/2015

[S354](#)
[North Carolina Healthcare Jobs Initiative.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/19/2015
 Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate 03/23/2015

[S409](#)
[Need-Based Scholars/Private Colleges.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/24/2015
 Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget 03/30/2015

[S357](#)
[Prohibit Improper Reporting to Credit Agency.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/23/2015
 Re-referred to Commerce. If fav, re-referred to

[S447](#)
[Energy Investment Act.](#) Introduced to the Senate 03/25/2015
 Re-referred Committee On Finance 03/30/2015

Re-referred to Commerce. If fav, re-referred to
Judiciary I 03/26/2015

[S410](#)
[Funds for ECU School of Medicine.](#)
Introduced to the Senate 03/24/2015
Re-ref Com On Appropriations/Base Budget
03/30/2015

[S411](#)
[Additional Expunction/Dismiss or Not Guilty.](#)
Introduced to the Senate 03/24/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/25/2015

[S421](#)
[Military Appreciation Month.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/24/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/25/2015

[S423](#)
[Foster Care Family Act.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred to Health Care. If fav, re-referred to
Judiciary I 03/26/2015

[S424](#)
[Fostering Success.](#) Introduced
to the Senate 03/23/2015
Re-referred to Judiciary I. If fav, re-referred to
Appropriations/Base Budget 03/30/2015

[S446](#)
[Dealership Loaner Vehicles.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred Committee On Transportation 03/30/2015

[S501](#)
[Strengthen the Do Not Call
Registry.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred to Commerce. If fav, re-referred to
Judiciary I 03/30/2015

[S504](#)
[Mobile Beauty Salons.](#)
Introduced to the Senate 03/25/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

[S515](#)
[Driver Education Funding.](#)
Introduced to the Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred to Transportation. If fav, re-referred
to Appropriations/Base Budget 03/30/2015

[S522](#)
[Raise Awareness of Lupus.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

[S527](#)
[Wounded Warrior Motorsport
Scholarship/Funds.](#) Introduced to
the Senate 03/26/2015
Re-referred to Education/Higher Education. If fav, re-
referred to Appropriations/Base Budget 03/30/2015

[S532](#)
[Eugenics Amendments/County](#)

[S449](#)
[Kappa Alpha Psi Special License
Plate.](#) Introduced to the Senate
03/25/2015
Re-referred Committee On Finance 03/30/2015

[S481](#)
[Providing Access To Entrepreneurs/Sm
Business.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred to Judiciary I. If fav, re-referred to Finance
03/30/2015

[S492](#)
[Limited Driving Privilege/Church.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred Committee On Transportation 03/30/2015

[S493](#)
[Political Party Funding Via Tax
Return.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred Committee On Redistricting 03/30/2015

[S494](#)
[Student Attendance Recognition.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred Committee On Education/Higher
Education 03/30/2015

[S495](#)
[Provide Funding/NC Military Business
Centers.](#) Introduced to the
Senate 03/25/2015
Re-referred Committee On Appropriations/Base Budget
03/30/2015

[S538](#)
[NCWorks/Enhance Workforce
Development.](#) Introduced to
the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

[S544](#)
[Requirements-Based Workforce
Development.](#) Introduced to
the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of the
Senate 03/30/2015

[S545](#)
[Workforce
Enrichment/Veterans.](#)
Introduced to the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

[S571](#)
[Expand Uses of 911 Fee.](#)
Introduced to the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

[S580](#)
[Honor State's Veterans.](#)
Introduced to the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

[S590](#)
[Sex Offender/Unlawfully On](#)

Victims. Introduced to the
Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

Premises. Introduced to the
Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

S591
Honor Coach's
Achievements. Introduced to
the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

S707
Assignment of Benefits.
Introduced to the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

S706
HBCU Innovation Fund.
Introduced to the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

S711
Presumption of Shared Parenting.
Introduced to the Senate 03/26/2015
Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of
the Senate 03/30/2015

District News

The Month of March Celebrated Women's History Month

On March 30, 2015, during session I presented to my colleagues a Senatorial Statement declaring that March was Women's History Month.

Our State Library of North Carolina celebrated Women's History Month noting that we recognize the vital place that women and their accomplishments have in our history. Strong women have gained notoriety throughout the state's past.

Moments from the Floor

I've had the chance to speak on multiple issues as of late:

NCEMPA Bill- This bill is a state approval seal for the purchase of shares of failing power companies in Eastern North Carolina by Duke Energy that will allow the citizens to lower their monthly utility bill by hundreds. I supported and voted for this bill because it achieves what I came here to do: help the citizens of North Carolina and put money back in the hands of people that need it the most.

Agriculture Day- On March 18 the General Assembly welcomed farmers and agricultural workers from across the state to come to Raleigh and speak with us on their concerns. We had a wonderful day getting to know the different industries that make North Carolina Agriculture one of the best in the nation and I was pleased to be able to stand up and thank them personally during the session meeting that day.

SB 2 Magistrate Recusal for Civil Ceremonies- I, along with fifteen other Senators, stood our ground for the rights of all couples in North Carolina when we voted no against this bill. This bill would allow Magistrates to recuse themselves from marrying duties on the grounds of bonafide religious beliefs. While I fully respect the religious freedoms of all citizens in the United States, I also believe in the rights of the individuals who were just now given the ability to be formally married in the state of North Carolina.

SB 36 Greensboro City Council Changes- A recent bill from Sen. Trudy Wade has passed the Senate and is currently in the house that will redesign the voting lines for the City of Greensboro. These designs are an attempt to move the layout of the current city council to attempt to realign the ideology with the majority party in the General Assembly.

SB 181 Wake County Commissioner Districts- In a similar vein of the bill listed above, this bill, written by Senator Chad Barefoot, would realign the Wake County Commissioner Districts to allow for an ideology change come next election. This is after the most recent elections in Wake County that resulted in a clean sweep for Democrat candidates.

SB 706 HBCU Innovation Fund- This bill, sponsored by Senator Davis, Bryant, and Robison, and co-sponsored by Senator Lowe, Smith-Ingram, Van Duyn, and myself, is an attempt to create an endowment fund for the Black Colleges and Universities in North Carolina that would help provide extra funds that the schools may need. I fully support this bill and all efforts to strengthen the Black Colleges and Universities in North Carolina.

News from the Home front

State Board of Education Votes to Revoke Schools' Charters

For just the third time in North Carolina's history, the State Board of Education voted Thursday to revoke the charter of a public school. Entrepreneur High School in Charlotte closed in mid-January, but administrators were trying to keep the charter, in hopes of reopening in the fall. But the N.C. Division of School Business projected the school would end the fiscal year with a budget shortfall in excess of \$400,000. "If a school cannot pay its teachers, cannot pay the principal, cannot pay to keep the school operating, then the board really has very little choice because you can't operate a school without having funds to operate the school," said State Superintendent June Atkinson.

For North Carolina Charters, a Spotty Record on Fulfilling Promises

North Carolina's charter schools are accountable to the State Board of Education for ensuring compliance with the provisions of their charters and applicable laws. But how well are they delivering on the promises that earned them the right to spend more than \$350 million taxpayer dollars each year? Our analysis shows many charters are not making the grade. We reviewed the charter applications of all 100 charter schools operating in North Carolina during the 2010-2011 school year, just before the General Assembly removed the cap of 100 schools (there are now 147 charter schools). Using information on school websites, in parent handbooks, and in some cases telephone calls, we compared schools' performance during that year to the commitments they made in their initial charter applications.

Snap Shots



Senator Waddell speaking on the NCEMPA bill that would save coastal and piedmont citizens hundreds on their utility bill.



After an interview about SB 347, a constitutional amendment to raise the minimum wage and then review the minimum wage yearly for any necessary raises.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you for voicing your issues, thoughts, and concerns through your many e-mails, phone calls, and office visits. I appreciate receiving input from you and am honored to be serving you in the 2015 Long Legislative Session. Please feel free to contact me, or my office.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please click [here](#)