

April 2015 Newsletter.docx

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Senator Waddell's April 2015 Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell
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*Serving District 40 and
 Mecklenburg County*

**Committees**

Appropriations on Education/
 Higher Education
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NCGA Information

**The Waddell Bulletin****Vol. I Ed. 3****April, 2015*****Dear Friends:***

I hope you are enjoying the blossoms of spring. Here in Raleigh we are approaching what is called Crossover. Crossover is defined as being new legislation going through committee in both chambers. The deadline for these bills to complete committee crossover is April 30, 2015.

On April 15, 2015, the Democrats held a press conference expressing concern over the 2013 tax overhaul. The tax overhaul is felt by many families for the first time since becoming law. The tax breaks were afforded to big corporations and wealthy individuals. Our elderly citizens in the state are facing economic hardship and seeing increased liability. I am committed to working for future change in tax legislation.

As this session continues, I will continue to do all that I can in making sure the voices of all my constituents are heard. As always, I thank you all for your continued support.

Please continue to refer to the North Carolina General Assembly website www.ncleg.net. You will be able to track legislation, sign up for committee notices and review the in depth citizen's guide.

I encourage you to contact us with your thoughts, comments, or suggestions. Please feel free to have others join in on conversation by sending contact information to Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net.

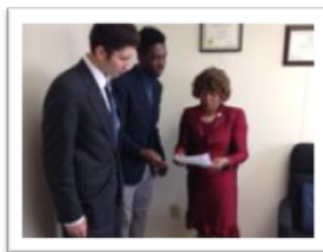
I look forward to hearing from you!

Legislative Update

- School Playgrounds Available to Public (Senate Bill 315)** On March 17, 2015, this bill was introduced. The currently written text of this bill will allow local organizations to use school properties in after-hour sessions "when not otherwise being used for school purposes" and "so long such use is consistent with the proper preservation and care of the outdoor school property". Advocacy for change in this legislation will allow schools to voluntarily open their facilities to local organizations without

in this legislation will allow schools to voluntarily open their facilities to local organizations without concern about the upkeep of the general condition. I think this addition was necessary after hearing from local constituents. This bill has already passed the Senate and has been sent to the House of Representatives. It has now been referred to the House Committee on Education K-12.

2. **Honor Girl Scouts (Senate Resolution 232)** On March 11, 2015, this resolution was adopted and I cosponsored. With many members of various North Carolina Girl Scout troops present for the event, the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to honor the hard work and community activism of the Girl Scouts of North America. Their continued effort and dedication to providing girls with a variety of enriching experiences, including community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships, field trips, and sports skill-building clinics is something to be admired by all.
3. **Stalking by GPS/Criminal Offense (Senate Bill 238)** On March 10, 2015, this bill was introduced and I cosponsored. This legislation has been submitted to provide that a person commits the offense of cyber stalking if the person knowingly installs or places a tracking device without consent and uses the device to track the location of an individual. There has been a growing concern about the use of GPS devices to track the location of unknowing victims.
4. **Honor State's Veterans (Senate Resolution 580)** On March 26, 2015, this resolution was introduced and I cosponsored. In honor of the service and dedication of the proud individuals that have served or are serving in the United States Military, the North Carolina Senate passed bipartisan support of a bill that expresses both deep gratitude and appreciation to our veterans. Throughout our country's history, generations of men and women have worn the uniform of the United States and have valiantly defended our nation and its inalienable rights. Our veterans have personally sacrificed so much for the greater good of our nation. Some of these brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting our country and the freedoms enjoyed by our citizens and all Americans. We pledge to never forget the sacrifice these brave men and women gave for our country.
5. **License Plate/Retired Register of Deeds (Senate Bill 313)** On March 17, 2015, this bill was introduced and I cosponsored. It clarifies who is eligible for a Retired Register of Deeds special registration plate. To be eligible, a person must have at least 10 years of service in a North Carolina county as a register of deeds. The person must also no longer hold the position for reasons other than being removed from office for failing at his or her duties. This special plate reads, "Register of Deeds," and the letter, "R," followed by a number which represents the county.
6. **SBC Selection (Senate Joint Resolution 334/Res. 2015-4)** On April 16, 2015, the Senate and House of Representatives elected members to the State Board of Community Colleges. The State Board consists of twenty-one members. Two members from the State are elected from the Senate and House. The Senate elected Dr. J. Breeden Blackwell and Clark S. Twiddy, to serve six-year terms beginning on July 1, 2015.
7. **Confirm Director of SBI (Senate Joint Resolution 712)** On April 16, 2015, the General Assembly confirmed the appointment of Bernard Warren (B.W.) Collier, II, as Director of the State Bureau of Investigation. Governor Pat McCrory submitted the appointee to the Senate and House to begin their term on July 1, 2015. The term will end on June 30, 2023.



Students from St. Augustine's University and Shaw University Stopped by to Discuss Policy on HBCU Student Lobbying Day at the Capitol



On Delta Day at the Capitol, Members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Visited to Discuss Requests for Legislation



As We Honored the Veterans, Jaqueline Tyes Visited from Charlotte to Discuss Legislation Related to Veteran Issues

District 40 News

Women's History Hall of Fame Ceremony

On Friday, March 27, I had the distinct honor of being inducted into the Women's History Hall of Fame. The

Hall of Fame recognizes women in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area who have broken barriers and significantly impacted their communities. I, along with three other women, Carolyn Flowers, former CATS CEO and now Senior Advisor to the Federal Transit Administration; Shirley Fulton, former North Carolina Superior Court Judge; and Vi Lyles, Charlotte City Councilwoman; were inducted during a ceremony at the Levine Museum of the New South. I would like to thank all those involved and I am so moved to have been chosen for this distinction.

Senate Bill 346 No Longer Being Considered

Senators Jeff Tarte, Tamara Barringer, and Terry Van Duyn, were the primary sponsors for SB 346 (Enact Stricter Immunization Requirement), decided to drop the bill. Concerned citizens voiced their opinion regarding the content of the bill. The sponsors cited concerns about the growing number of children whose parents were using the religious exemption to opt them out of vaccination requirements, thus threatening the immunity threshold. Critics, however, cried out against the bill as governmental overreach and said the proposal violated parental rights as well as the constitutional right to free exercise of religion.

Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant Jyrita Moore at 919-733-5650 or by email at waddelljla@ncleg.net

*All committee meetings and press conferences can be heard on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "**Audio**" and then make your selection: House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Committee Room or Press Conference Room. A schedule of committee meetings and other events is also available on the website.*

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