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## May 2015 Newsletter

Yrita Moore (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljia@ncleg.net]

Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 11:12 AM

May 2015 Newsletter

### Senator Joyce Waddell

NC Senate

300 N Salisbury Rd, Suite 515

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

*Serving District 40 and  
Mecklenburg County*

### Committees

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NCGA Information



## The Waddell Bulletin



Vol. I Ed. 4

May, 2015

### Dear Friends:

The House Appropriations Committee presented their proposed 2015-16 budget plan on Monday, May 18, 2015. The budget plan calls for spending \$22.1 billion which would be about \$1 billion more than last budget year.

Budget writers report \$400 million surplus, revenue growth. The budget plan includes a 2% raise for teachers and other state employees, as well as an adjustment of 2% cost of living for retirees.

Legislative leaders tout an increase in starting pay for teacher of \$35,000. In comparison to other states, North Carolina still has unacceptable standards of funding for students and teachers alike. Since 2008 North Carolina has been in the bottom ranking nationally.

The proposed house budget does not go far enough ensuring that each child receives an adequate education. Our students and teachers must remain on the forefront of education.

In the coming weeks the Senate will initiate its version of the budget. Other proposed funds include awarding \$10 million in film grants; a new NC Venture Multiplier Fund; and lottery proceeds being accessible to enforce gambling enforcement activities through Alcohol Law enforcement and other tax credits.

As we go through the budgetary process I will continue to update you with budgetary highlights.

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

Please continue to refer to the North Carolina General Assembly website [www.ncleg.net](http://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](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net).

I look forward to hearing from you!

## Legislative Update

1. [Autism Health Insurance Coverage \(SB 676\)](#) – I support this bill. Last year, the Senate failed to bring an Autism Insurance reform bill to a vote after gaining bipartisan support in the House. The bill has been reintroduced in the Senate. SB 676 would provide coverage for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders. The bill passed its third reading in the Senate on April 28, 2015. It was sent to the House and passed its first reading.
2. [Expunction of Criminal Records \(SB 362\)](#) – I am a co-sponsor for SB 362. I spoke about this bill at a press conference. The Expunction Criminal records bill shortens the waiting period required to expunge nonviolent misdemeanor and felony convictions. The bill will provide for the expunction of all charges pled “not guilty” or dismissed. Also, it will allow district attorneys and law enforcement the access to files expunged pursuant to second or subsequent petitions as provided by the state law. This act becomes effective on December 1, 2015, and applies to petitions filed on or after that date.
3. [Remembering the Holocaust \(House Joint Resolution 668/Res. 2015-6\)](#) – April 29, 2015, marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Armed Forces liberation to the Dachau, Germany, concentration camp. The General Assembly honors the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. This joint resolution recognizes The United States Armed Forces for their courage and bravery in the liberation of the camps.
4. [North Carolina Farm Act of 2015 \(SB 513\)](#)– I support this bill. The North Carolina Farm Act of 2015 reviews and revises various agriculture rules and regulations. From promoting sustainable agriculture to the expansion of deer farming, this bill is wide-reaching and has bi-partisan support. It is due for its third reading on the Senate floor on Tuesday, May 19.
5. [Property Protection Act \(HB 405\)](#) – I voted against this bill. The Property Protection Act is designed to allow employers to collect damages through litigation from former employees who acted in excess of the scope of permissible actions and behaviors granted to them. While this bill is purposed as a bill to protect employers, it has an added chilling effect on employees that are witnesses to illegal activities going on behind the scenes in the workplace. This bill has passed the House and Senate and is currently headed to the Governor’s Office for final consideration and signing.
6. [Controlled Substance/Update Precursor List \(HB 659\)](#) – I support this bill. House bill 659 criminalizes the possession of pseudoephedrine product if the person has any prior conviction relating to the use, possession, or sale of methamphetamines. This constriction would further hamper the ability of methamphetamine producers to create and distribute more illegal.
7. [Automatic License Plate Readers \(SB 182\)](#) – I am a co-sponsor for SB 182. This bill regulates the use of automatic license plate reading systems for law enforcement agencies. It prohibits agencies from preserving data obtained by an automatic license plate reader for more than 90 days. This data must have investigatory value, evidentiary value in a criminal action, or is needed to prove a violation of a motor carrier safety regulation. This data would be confidential and disclosed from the public. This act becomes effective December 1, 2015. SB 182 passed its third reading in the Senate on April 28, 2015. It was sent to the House and passed its first reading.
8. [Study/Fund Improvements/Interstate Highways \(SB 383\)](#) – I am a co-sponsor for SB 383. This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to study ways to fund improvements to Interstate highways in North Carolina. DOT is directed to report recommendations and legislative proposals to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight committee by February 1, 2016. This bill passed its third reading in the Senate on April 30, 2015. It was sent to the House and passed its first reading.
9. [Repeal Personal Ed Plans/Modify Trans Plans \(HB 237\)](#) – This bill repeals education plans and transition teams for students at risk of academic failure. Local boards of education must implement rules to help students at risk transition between elementary and middle school years and middle and high school years. Due to my experience as an educator, I had an active role in the committee process to shaping this bill. I spoke on this bill during Session and wished to include, “Parents should be included in the implementation and ongoing review of intervention implementation.” My amendment to this bill did not pass but I gained a lot of great support. The State Board of Education must report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight committee by November 15, 2016. This bill becomes effective when it becomes law and applies the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.
10. [Honoring Duke's NCAA Championship \(Senate Joint Resolution 714\)](#) – On April 26, 2015, the Duke University men’s basketball team won the 2015 National Basketball Championship. The General Assembly honors the Duke Blue Devils on their win in this joint resolution. Coach Mike Krzyzewski and the men’s basketball team joined us at the General Assembly on May 19, 2015. Coach K shared his great views on the importance of education, “Always remember education. The real heroes of our state are the teachers and administrators who run our educational system.” I completely agree with his statement. Congratulations to the Duke University men’s basketball team!

**Co-sponsored Bills on Watch**

Bill	Short Title	Action Date	Action Text
<a href="#">S182</a>	<a href="#">Automatic License Plate Readers.</a>	H 04/30/2015	Ref to the Com on Transportation, if favorable, Judiciary IV, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
<a href="#">S233</a>	<a href="#">Automatic Expunction/Mistaken Identity.</a>	H 04/16/2015	Ref To Com On Judiciary II
<a href="#">S238</a> (=H187)	<a href="#">Stalking by GPS/Criminal Offense.</a>	H 04/21/2015	Ref To Com On Judiciary II
<a href="#">S286</a>	<a href="#">Regulate the Sale of E-Liquid Containers.</a>	H 04/27/2015	Ref to the Com on Health, if favorable, Commerce and Job Development
<a href="#">S305</a> (=H265)	<a href="#">NCEMPA Asset Sale.</a>	R 04/02/2015	Ch. SL 2015-3
<a href="#">S313</a>	<a href="#">License Plate/Retired Register of Deeds.</a>	H 04/21/2015	Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
<a href="#">S363</a> (=H440)	<a href="#">Expand Outdoor Food Service at Public Events.</a>	H 04/30/2015	Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
<a href="#">S383</a>	<a href="#">Study/Fund Improvements/Interstate Hwys.</a>	H 04/30/2015	Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
<a href="#">S423</a> (=H407)	<a href="#">Foster Care Family Act.</a>	H 04/30/2015	Ref to the Com on Health, if favorable, Judiciary III, if favorable, Insurance
<a href="#">S446</a>	<a href="#">Dealership Loaner Vehicles.</a>	H 04/30/2015	Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
<a href="#">S522</a>	<a href="#">Raise Awareness of Lupus.</a>	H 04/30/2015	Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
<a href="#">S545</a>	<a href="#">Workforce Enrichment/Veterans.</a>	H 04/30/2015	Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House



Senator Waddell and her sponsored page, Jessica Adams, working hard together. Miss Adams is a student at Butler High School.



Senator Waddell, a former educator herself, speaks at the Teacher Appreciation Day press conference with other members of the Democratic Party.



The wonderful women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated joined Senator Waddell, an AKA colleague, to discuss issues for the Alpha Kappa Alpha NC Legislative Day.

## District 40 News

### Teacher Appreciation Day

Members of the Democratic Party joined together in a press conference to commemorate the work of the teachers and educators in North Carolina. The efforts of the Democratic Party were reaffirmed in supporting teachers and increasing the tools teachers have both inside and outside the classroom.

### Dorothy Dix Sale Finalized

Governor McCrory and Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane finalized paperwork that would sell the Dorothy Dix property from the state of North Carolina to the city of Raleigh for fifty-two million dollars. The 308-acre property is set to become a crown jewel park for the city of Raleigh. This plan has been in place for close to three years now and hinges on the city of Raleigh being able to make the funds available for the sale by the end of the year.

## Governor Signs Renewable Energy Tax Credit

Governor McCrory signed a one year extension to the North Carolina renewable energy tax credits. Senate Bill 372, which passed the House and Senate, extends the tax credit for renewable energy projects in advanced stages of development for one year.

### Budget Surplus

The Senate and House leaders joined the Governor in announcing the state would end with approximately four hundred million dollars more than expected. This surplus was realized in a new consensus revenue report which comes as a mild surprise to lawmakers. In March, revenue report projections showed that the state would end the year with a slight deficit. However, Democratic leaders posited that the four hundred million dollar boon to the state government came as the expense of working class families, whereas higher paid workers and corporate entities still received higher tax breaks than ever.

### League of Women Voters Lobby Day

May 13<sup>th</sup> marked the annual League of Women Voters Lobbying Day at the General Assembly. Women from across the state joined us here in Raleigh to discuss and debate various issues like health services, education, social welfare services, etc.

*Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant Jyritya Moore at 919-733-5650 or by email at [waddelljla@ncleg.net](mailto:waddelljla@ncleg.net)*

*All committee meetings and press conferences can be heard on the General Assembly's website at [www.ncleg.net](http://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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