

Senator Waddell's June 2015, Week 2, Newsletter

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

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Senator Waddell's June 2015, Week 2, Newsletter

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NC Senate
300 N Salisbury Rd,
Suite 515
Raleigh, NC 27603-
5925

The Waddell Bulletin*Serving District 40 and Mecklenburg County***Vol. I Ed. 5****June, 2015****Dear Friends:**

As we continue to craft the budget, I hope to steer the conversation towards teacher pay increases and more spending for our children's education per student. Although the current budget does include \$50 million for textbooks and digital resources in public schools, funding is still lower than what should be expected. Education is important, yet the budget fails to retain our best teachers. North Carolina's excellence in education can be restored by increasing the teacher pay to the National average, using lottery funds to pay for education, restoring the NC Teaching Fellows Program to fully funded levels, and much more. We need to invest more in our state's future.

In a recent victory for the teachers of North Carolina, the North Carolina Court of Appeals upheld a Superior Court decision in the case of the North Carolina Association of Educators vs. the State of North Carolina from the summer of 2014. A bill was passed in 2013 that revoked the tenure status of our state's great teachers to be in violation of their rights and was deemed unconstitutional. This victory is key for giving our teachers the protection they deserve and the respect they have earned.

Committees

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

The budget votes in the Senate will most likely be delayed. The budget expires on June 30, 2015. State legislators could reach a resolution by passing a short-term budget. I wish and strive for the North Carolina budget to restore good paying jobs and the excellence in education. These are important assets to strengthen the economy.

Recently Governor McCrory has been on the receiving end of vitriol from members of his own party regarding his vetoes of popular conservative legislation. I wish to implore the Governor to maintain his ground in regards to his positions and continue to work for what is best for North Carolina, rather than what is best for one party. This state was built on compromise and cooperation and the conservative policies recently passed by the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives will not benefit our state. I applaud the Governor's efforts in keeping North Carolina first.

[HB 405, Property Protection Act](#), became law on June 3, 2015. This bill protects property owners from damages caused by individuals who expose secrets or take pictures of their workplaces. It enforces the liability of those who engage in an act that exceeds permissible access and conduct granted to them. Governor Pat McCrory vetoed this bill on May 29, 2015. The veto was overridden by the Senate. I voted against this bill and supported the Governor's veto. This act becomes effective on January 1, 2016.

There was much controversy concerning [HB 465, Women and Children's Protection Act of 2015](#), which has been ratified and presented to the Governor on June 5, 2015. This bill extends the waiting period for women seeking abortions from 24 hours to 72 hours. I voted against this bill, due to the prolonged waiting period, and spoke on my opposition at Session on the Senate floor.

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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.

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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.

NCGA Information



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!

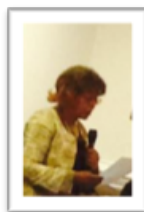
Session News

1. [ABC Omnibus Legislation \(HB 909\)](#) – This wide scoping legislation will update and change certain provisions to the Alcoholic Beverage Control terms. Some of the updates include the sale of growlers for wine and cider and the sale of antique liqueurs. HB 909 increases the ability of permitting on Native American soil, the criminalization of the possession of powdered alcohol, and legalizing the sales of spirits in some sport club houses. This bill has already passed the North Carolina House of Representatives and received the North Carolina Senate’s stamp of approval after some changes were made in committee. It will now be returned to the House for further discussion or concurrence. I, along with many other Senators in a bipartisan effort, voted for this bill.
2. [Retention Elections/State Supreme Court \(HB 222\)](#) – HB 222 would drastically change how the highest court in North Carolina, the State Supreme Court, is compromised going forward. In North Carolina the general populace votes in a non-partisan fashion for the election of justices for the Supreme Court. By moving away from this practice and adopting the retention election method, it would remove the ability of other quality judges and legal experts from attempting to serve North Carolina. Retention elections work by placing a “for or against” box on the general ballot for the individual in question. This is a stark change from the current system that the North Carolina Judicial System currently abides by. This is a political move by conservative law makers to retain conservative justices and continue to vet the legality of their work. I voted against this bill and support the standard of democracy that we have long since established and adhered to for years.
3. [Retirement Technical Corrections Act of 2015.-AB \(HB 274\)](#) – This legislation would clarify the definition of an employee in regards to the Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System (TSERS). Under the provision, employees must work at least 30 hours per week for nine or more months per calendar year. When a beneficiary’s long term benefits are reduced during the first 36 months of the disability period by an amount equal to the primary Social Security retirement benefit, it is effective as of the first of the month following the month of initial entitlement to the long-term disability benefit. I am in support of this bill and spoke on it at Session on Thursday, May 28, 2015. This bill was ratified and presented to the Governor on June 2, 2015.
4. [State Health Plan Modifications \(HB 190\)](#) – This bill would enforce a change to the State Health Plan allowing retirees, surviving spouses, and their dependents, to dis-enroll from the plan during the plan year without a qualifying event. If a former state worker dies, the spouse of the worker is still covered, which benefits the spouse at this time of need. The men and women of North Carolina that have devoted themselves in service to this state deserve the ability to protect their loved ones posthumously. House Bill 190 would become effective July 1, 2015. I voted in support of this bill.
5. [Charlotte Firefighters’ Retirement \(HB 70\)](#) – House Bill 70 expands the protections for the firefighters of Charlotte. The benefits provided to our loyal firefighters will now be easier to access in situations involving the death or depilating injury of these great men and women. It will also allow our firefighters to establish retirement funds for non-spouse individuals. I am in support of this bill.
6. [Zoning Changes/Citizen Input \(HB 201\)](#) – This act would amend the process in which the city council receives citizens that have control over the authority of the use of land and have authoritative order to have input into zoning. It would repeal any local act authority for submission, review, or action by a local government on any zoning protest petition. It also removes any protest against a zoning map amendment. HB 201 would not become effective unless there is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the city council members votes. This bill is currently under review in the Commerce committee.

Co-sponsored Legislation

Bill	Short Title	Action Date	Action Text
<u>S182</u>	<u>Automatic License Plate</u>	H 04/30/2015	Ref to the Com on

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



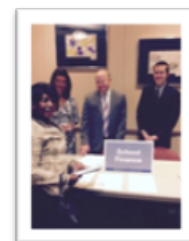
Senator Waddell declared her Senatorial Statement Honoring the Observance of Juneteenth during Session on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.



Senator Waddell interviewed with Time Warner Cable News on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, to share her views on House Bill 465, Women and Children's Protection Act of 2015.



Senator Waddell Meets with NC Solar to Discuss House Bill 332, Energy Policy Amendments, on Tuesday, June 2, 2015.



Senator Waddell at the State Board of Education and NC Department of Public Instruction Education Breakfast on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

Ratified Bills in Session

Bill	Short Title	Signed Date
<u>S 109</u>	Joint Session/State of the Judiciary	03-02-15
<u>H 157</u>	Amend Environmental Laws	03-16-15
<u>S 334</u>	SBCCE Elections	03-30-15
<u>S 20</u>	IRC Update/Motor Fuel Tax Changes	03-31-15
<u>S 305</u>	NCEMPA Asset Sale	04-02-15
<u>S 181</u>	Wake County Commissioner Districts	04-02-15

S 78	Off-duty Correctional Officers/Conceal Carry	04-09-15
H 41	Rev Laws Tech Changes	04-09-15
S 14	Acad. Standards/Rules Review/Coal Ash/Funds	04-13-15
H 140	Lineman Appreciation Day in N.C.	04-16-15
S 5	Union County Local Act	04-27-15
H 364	Clarify Laws of Exec. Orders and Appointments	04-27-15
S 712	Confirm Director of SBI	04-29-15
H 668	Remembering the Holocaust	04-30-15
S 372	Renewable Energy Safe Harbor	04-30-15
H 393	Tri-County CC/Bd. Of Trustees	05-11-15
H 65	Wilkes Fox Trapping	05-14-15
H 204	Caswell Beach/Quick Take Eminent Domain	05-14-15
H 243	Local Mod: Economic Development Commissions	05-14-15
H 91	Study Misuse of Handicapped Parking Placards	05-14-15
H 358	School Performance Grade Scale	05-14-15
H 601	Sale of Deer Skins	05-14-15
H 706	Building Code/Rustic Cabins	05-14-15
S 715	Joint Session to Honor Duke Basketball Team	05-18-15
H 130	Davie County/Food for Detention Facilities	05-18-15
H 158	Jim Fulghum Teen Skin Cancer Prevention Act	05-21-15
S 116	Handicapped Parking Windshield Placard	05-21-15
S 123	Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act	05-21-15
H 71	Clarify County Comm Oath Filing	05-21-15
H 79	Contempt for 50C/Scope of Stay for Appeals	05-21-15
H 102	Utility Vehicles/Move-Over Changes	05-21-15
H 195	Allow Substitution of Biosimilars	05-21-15
H 437	Create Permit Exemptions/Home Renal Products	05-21-15
H 434	Handicap Placard/Med. Recertification	05-21-15
H 878	Expand BD. Of Trustees/Sch. Of Science & Math	05-21-15
S 90	Required Number of Operating Brake Lights	05-21-15
H 659	Controlled Substances/Update	05-21-15

Precursor Lis

H 143	Charlotte/Civil Service Board	05-21-15
H 313	Promotion Grievance/City of Statesville	05-21-15
H 110	Cherokee/Rutherford/Clay Bds. Of Ed. Elect.	05-26-15
S 421	Military Appreciation Month	05-28-15
H 892	2015 Speaker and PPT Appointments	05-28-15
H 70	Charlotte Firefighters' Retirement	06-01-15

Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant Jyrta 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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