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Senator Waddell's June 2015, Week 3, Newsletter

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Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 10:28 AM

Senator Waddell's June 2015, Week 3, Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell

NC Senate

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NCGA Information



The Waddell Bulletin



Vol. I Ed. 6

June, 2015

Dear Friends:

The time is here to present the Senate budget. There are many committee meetings scheduled this week to negotiate and settle the State's spending plan. The Senate and House of Representatives wish to reach a final agreement before the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2015.

The Senate budget, as it is currently written, is unacceptable. We continue to devalue North Carolina's education system with this systemic dissection of necessary programs. It was not long ago that North Carolina was known for its progressive approach to education. We, sadly, no longer have a claim to this distinction and can only hope that better sense and better legislation will prevail. I spoke about the importance of providing our veteran teachers with the support they deserve and raising the teacher pay to the national average at Session on June 17, 2015.

According to two national reports issued by the Education Law Center and the Leadership Conference Education Fund, North Carolina received an "F" last week for the state's spending on public education relative to the gross state product. We have the necessary funds to better the lives of students and teachers alike and yet continue to treat both as second-class citizens. Between the years of 2010 and 2012, the spending rate per student dropped by almost three thousand dollars. We have managed to devalue education in a state formally known for its progressive attitude towards our children's learning. We should spend less money wasting the courts time with the defense of the so called "constitutional laws" that are passed at the state legislature and more on our students. We have no future without them.

I stand appalled at the recent behavior of the voting majority in the General Assembly. Governor McCrory made the right decision by exercising his veto of [Senate Bill 2, Magistrates Recusal for Civil Ceremonies](#), and last week the North Carolina Legislature flexed its muscles and overturned the Governor's veto. We have legalized discrimination of loving couples carte blanche and will now turn to wasting tax-payers dollars fighting and losing a legal battle defending this law. The state of North Carolina deserves better and the people deserve better.

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!

Session News

1. [Teacher Attrition Data \(SB 333\)](#) – Senate Bill 333 will require the State Board of Education to track and report data regarding the profession of teaching in our state. Whether a teacher leaves the state for better employment, to take up a position at another school, or change professions entirely, are all new facets to be tracked. We hope to better understand how to help our teachers and keep some of North Carolina’s best employees in our classrooms. I, along with all of my senatorial colleagues, voted for the passage of the Senate version of the bill which is at odds in some degree with the version that passed the House of Representatives, because of this a joint committee has been formed to find common ground and insure the passage of this legislation.
2. [Clarifying The Good Samaritan Law \(SB 154\)](#) – The Good Samaritan Law was originally put into place to protect citizens that reported drug overdoses, who were sometimes drug users themselves, in the hope to encourage more people to call for medical assistance in the case of drug overdoses. This clarification clearly states the scenarios involved for limited immunities in the case of drug-related overdoses. This has passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives unanimously and was ratified on June 10, 2015.
3. [Credit Unions/Statutory Changes \(HB 511\)](#) – This act makes various statutory changes allowing credit unions to be covered in the type of institutions that can offer trust and escrow accounts. The deposits made in these accounts must be watched over and made in a federally insured depository institution lawfully conducting business in North Carolina. This act removes the investment options invested in higher education bonds that commit to taxing power of the state for payment of the principal and interest on bonds and notes. HB 511 amends any concerns regarding compensation and reimbursement for board of directors or committee members. I voted in support of this bill and spoke on it at Session. This act passed the third reading in the Senate unanimously on June 10, 2015.
4. [Grant Recipients Posted on Grantor Website \(HB 812\)](#) – An act for the purpose of clarity, HB 812 requires state agencies to announce the recipients of grant funding on their websites to allow tax-payers to view their money at work in North Carolina. This bill will also move the review process to quarterly reviews of all State contracts and grants administered by state agencies. This bill passed both the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate unanimously and has been enrolled into law.
5. [Food Stand Seating & Outdoor Food Service \(SB 7\)](#) – This bill allows food truck and food cart owners to provide seating for customers to consume goods on the premise and adds an ease to the small business owners that run these establishments. This bill has passed both the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate and has been ordered to be enrolled and go into effect as of October 1. I am in support of this bill.
6. [Insurance Required for Mopeds \(HB 148\)](#) – The impact of this legislation is simple– all mopeds, unless specifically recused, will require liability insurance for coverage in accidents. It would be unlawful to operate a moped on a street or highway without liable insurance coverage. Preventing victims from having to shoulder the cost in moped accidents is an important step in equal protection of all drivers. This bill passed the North Carolina House of Representatives on a 81-32 vote. It passed the second reading in the Senate on June 15, 2015. I voted against this bill.
7. [Health Choice Technical Revisions.-AB \(SB 487\)](#) – This bill amends the statutes of the Health Insurance Program for Children at the recommendation of the Department of Health and Human Services. It is designed to avoid confusion by stakeholders and increase efficiency in the administration of the program. I voted in support of this bill. SB 487 was ratified and presented to the Governor on June 11, 2015.
8. [Local Governments in State Health Plan \(HB 154\)](#) – HB 154 would make local governments eligible to enroll its employees and dependents in the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees under specified conditions. To qualify, the local government unit must meet federal requirements to enter into a governmental plan. The local government unit would determine the eligibility of employees and their dependents and the amount of premium to be paid. This act is effective once it becomes law. I am in support of this bill. It passed its third reading in the Senate on June 15, 2015.
9. [DOT/Purchase of Contaminated Land.-AB \(SB 301\)](#) – The State and the Community College System are prohibited from purchasing any contaminated real property unless it is approved by the Governor and Council of State. This bill would exempt the Department of Transportation from this State law requirement for approval. I am in support of this bill. SB 301 was ratified on June 16, 2015.
10. [Utility Line Relocation/School Board \(HB 86\)](#) – For a local board of education, the Department

of Transportation must pay the cost of moving water and sewer lines, owned by certain entities in the transportation right-of-way, to relocate for state transportation movement projects. This act becomes effective July 1, 2015, and applies to relocations of water and sewer lines on or after that date. This bill was ratified and presented to the Governor on June 16, 2015.

Co-sponsored Legislation

Bill	Short Title	Action Date	Action Text
<u>S182</u>	<u>Automatic License Plate Readers.</u>	H 04/30/2015	Ref to the Com on 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 shows her support at the Interstate 485 Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Charlotte, NC.



Senator Waddell and members of the Senate Democratic Caucus discuss the pending Senate budget Release at the Press Conference on June 10, 2015.



Senator Waddell congratulated the graduates of: Garinger High School, Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences, Lincoln Heights Academy, Northwest School of the Arts, Performance Learning Center, and Metro School in Charlotte, NC.

Bill	Short Title	Signed Date
S 109	Joint Session/State of the Judiciary	03-02-15
H 157	Amend Environmental Laws	03-16-15
S 334	SBCC Elections	03-30-15
S 20	IRC Update/Motor Fuel Tax Changes	03-31-15
S 305	NCEMPA Asset Sale	04-02-15
S 181	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 Precursor Lis	05-21-15
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
H 274	Retirement Technical Corrections Act of 2015.-AB	06-01-15
H 291	Haz. Materials in Safe Deposit Box.-AB	06-01-15
H 552	Graffiti Vandalism	06-02-15
H 691	Assault on a National Guard Member	06-02-15
S 112	Comm. Fishing Courses/Coastal Colleges	06-03-15
S 597	Repeal References to ABCs	06-03-15
H 574	Opossum Exclusion from Wildlife Laws	06-03-15
H 340	Weekend Burials/State Veteran Cemeteries	06-03-15
H 346	Counties/Public Trust Areas	06-03-15
S 315	School Playgrounds Available to Public	06-04-15
H 352	Standard of Proof/Public Safety Dispatchers	06-04-15
H 465	Women and Children's Protection	06-04-15
H 279	Wake Cty Local Board of Equalization/Review	06-04-15
H 163	Captive Insurance Amendments	06-08-15
H 190	State Health Plan Modifications.-AB	06-08-15
H 262	Surplus Lines Amendments	06-08-15
H 222	Retention Elections/Supreme Court	06-08-15
H 909	ABC Omnibus Legislation	06-08-15
H 795	SEPA Reform	06-08-15
S 366	Amend Certain Reqs/Permanency	06-08-15


Innovation Comm.

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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