

## Senator Waddell's July 2015 Newsletter

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*Serving District 40 and  
 Mecklenburg County*



### Committees

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## The Waddell Bulletin

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### Dear Friends:

As we commemorate the Fourth of July holiday and celebrate our independence as Americans, I feel that my role as a Senator takes on a fuller meaning. We, here at the General Assembly, have been elected to represent the North Carolina citizens from our homes. Our neighbors chose us to lead and guide this state as part of this greater nation that we all live in, and I feel that we could, and should, be doing more for you, the citizen.

The leadership of the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate passed a motion that allowed us to take the week following Independence Day off and kick back and relax instead of finishing the budget like we were sent here to do. With the pressing issues hanging over the heads of teacher assistants, schools, and businesses alike, we need to let all of you know what the state of North Carolina will look like going forward these next two years and what you can look forward to and plan for in the near future. We owe that to the people of North Carolina. We owe it to you to do the job we were sent here to do and not give ourselves vacation time that could be better spent here working for you. I hope that in the coming weeks we will be able to finish the budget and support North Carolina in the best way possible.

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!



## Session News

- [Zoning Changes/Citizen Input \(HB 201\)](#) – Our most basic rights as Americans are the right to assemble and the right to protest. For the longest time in North Carolina this right was protected in regards to protesting and debating the over-development of our local neighborhoods and helped everyday citizens protect their community from developers in search of only profit. However, this right is now being challenged by HB 201 which will repeal the right of a combined citizenry to override the decision to break ground on an unwanted construction project with at least twenty percent of the citizens affected protesting the construction. Unfortunately, it passed its third reading in the Senate and will be sent back to the House for concurrence.
- [Labor/Up Amusement Device Penalties \(HB 39\)](#) – This is an act to increase the penalties for the illegal operation of amusement devices and to direct the department of labor to study the regulation of the operation of zip-lines. After last year's incident at the state fair, which left several North Carolinians severely injured, there was an outcry from the general public for stricter standards to be created and maintained to help prevent this from ever happening again. This bill makes the unlawful operation of an amusement park ride that leads to the death of a patron to result in a class E felony which comes with a fifty thousand dollar fine, fifteen years in prison, or both. I voted in support of this bill. HB 39 passed its third reading in the Senate and is now in the House for further discussion.
- [Amend CBD Oil Statute \(HB 766\)](#) – Last year, North Carolina broke ground by introducing hemp oil treatments on a select basis for epilepsy patients to be studied by approved universities and hospitals for the viability of continued use. This year we have moved to amend the general statute that was created last year to further open the avenues for treatments and increase the availability of cannabidiol oil for doctors to continue their research into the multiple uses the oil may have. This is groundbreaking science and I am pleased to say that this bill received almost unanimous support in both the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives, with only two representatives voting against the bill and the senators giving the bill their full support. I voted in support of this bill. It passed its third reading in the Senate and is now in the House for further debate.
- [Regulatory Reform Act of 2015 \(HB 765\)](#) - On Monday, June 29, 2015, the North Carolina House of Representatives voted and passed a simple redefinition on how gravel is transported in North Carolina and sent this one page bill to the Senate for consideration. This bill then became a fifty-eight page environmental bill that repeals many of the standing general statutes in regards to environmental regulations and endangers the state of North Carolina. The Department of Energy and Natural Resources spoke vehemently against this bill and was completely overridden by the Senate leadership whose own agenda outweighed the department in charge of the continued upkeep of our state's environment. I am against this bill and, along with sixteen other Senators, voiced my disapproval. Unfortunately, we were overruled and this bill will now return to the North Carolina House of Representatives for concurrence, failing that the bill will be heard by a joint committee of the Senate and House.
- [Civ Pro/Modernize Expert Discovery \(HB 376\)](#) – This bill is simple legislation that will reassess how expert witnesses are considered in North Carolina and will help the North Carolina Department of Justice work in cohesion with courts on the federal level. This update includes proper, reasonable compensation for expert witness in trial cases, something that had not been available prior to this bill's passage. It also updates standards as to how soon

an individual involved in the legal representation of a case member has to announce the usage of an expert witness, setting the latest possible date to be ninety days before a trial. This bill has passed both the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives with unanimous support and will be sent to the Governor for his signature.

- [\*\*Establish Advisory Council on Rare Diseases \(HB 823\)\*\*](#) – An estimated 25 to 30 million Americans are affected by rare diseases. Although the diseases can be traced through genetics or environmental factors, the exact cause still remains unknown. This bill establishes the Advisory Council on Rare Diseases within the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Advisory Council will consist of experienced rare disease advocates who are appointed by the Secretary; the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS Oversight); and the Secretary. The Advisory Council will conduct research and study the incidence of rare diseases within the State and provide recommendations for statutory changes and amendments. I voted in support of this bill. HB 823 passed its third reading in the Senate and was sent to the House for concurrence.
- [\*\*Clarify Cond. Discharge Law/No DWI Expunge \(HB 273\)\*\*](#) – HB 273 explains the convictions of impaired driving do not apply to the provisions regarding deferred prosecution and conditional discharge for H and I felonies and misdemeanors under structured sentencing. A person convicted of impaired driving may be placed on probation but is ineligible to be expunged. I voted in support of this bill. HB 273 passed both the Senate and House. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.
- [\*\*Juvenile Law Changes/Abuse/Neglect/Dependency. \(HB 669\)\*\*](#) – This bill will make various changes to the juvenile laws relating to abuse, neglect, and dependency. These changes follow the ratification of Senate Bill 423, known as the "Foster Care Family Act," and include the removal of the "Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard." HB 669 also states that foster parents have the right to have a say so in certain juvenile affairs. I voted in support of this bill. HB 669 was ratified and signed by the Governor on July 2, 2015. This act becomes effective on October 1st, 2015.

## In Charlotte, NC



Senator Waddell enjoys the great music and fellowship at the Hickory Grove Parade and Celebration on July 4, 2015.



Senator Waddell addresses the audience and brings greetings from Senate District 40 at the Hickory Grove Parade and Celebration on July 4, 2015.

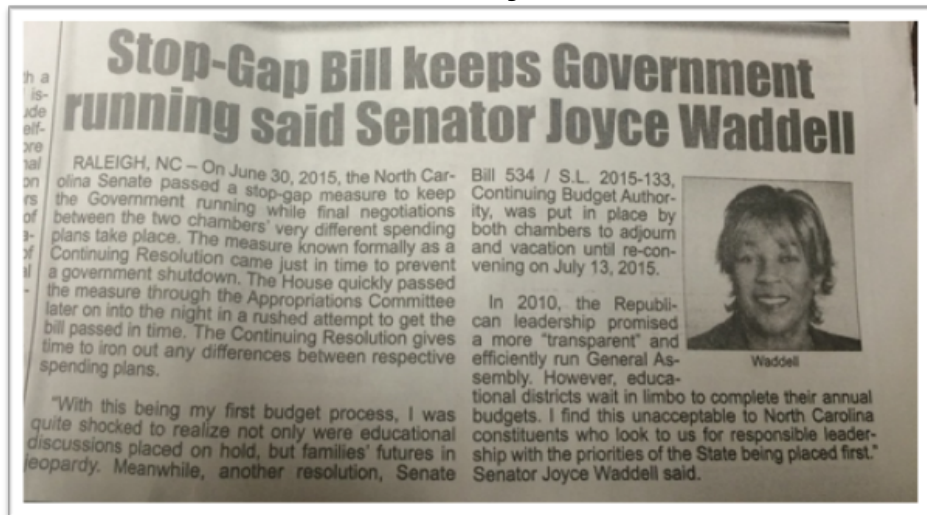


Senator Waddell congratulates our courageous veterans for their great service to the United States of America.

## In the Media

[Click this link to view the news clip and article on saving North Carolina's teacher assistants. Senator Waddell shows her support at the press conference by Progress NC.](#)

# The County News



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](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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