

Senator Waddell's August 18, 2015 Newsletter

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The Waddell Weekly Bulletin



*Serving District 40 and
Mecklenburg County*

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Dear Friends:

The budget deadline, originally set for the end of June, will now be extended to August 31, 2015. In no other line of work is it acceptable to present your main goal two months late. The Senate and House of Representatives were elected with a major goal: to finalize the State budget. Yet there are more questions than answers. Schools do not have confirmed monies, retirement benefits are up in the air, and student programs remain questionable. This has to stop.

By shutting out the leaders from major metropolises, a majority of our citizens' interests are left unattended by Senate Leaders as well. Millions of people in the Triangle area and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area, as well as the hundreds of thousands of other citizens that are represented by Democratic Senators are up in arms over the fact that that they have no say in the budget process. This does not fairly represent the state of North Carolina as a whole.

Committees

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

In the coming days schools across the state will return to its normal schedule and Republican Leaders have still refused to help our children. By proposing to eliminate the teacher assistants in North Carolina in the coming budget, it directly impacts the first years of our young children in North Carolina. The formative years of school are vital for students to develop their personality and learning styles. By taking the tools away from schools, GOP Leadership is clearly expressing a lack of importance that education has in North Carolina now.

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!

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Session News

- [Change DCR Process for Unclaimed Property.-AB \(HB 184\)](#) – This legislation allows the Department of Cultural Resources to use the net proceeds of the sale of artifacts to be utilized for the maintenance and conservation of other artifacts. It

explains the procedure by which a museum or archives repository can acquire title to loaned property. All restrictions on access to public records would expire 100 years after the creation of the record, with specified exceptions. HB 184 clarifies that any documented materials of a derelict vessel or shipwreck that are in the custody of a North Carolina government agency are a public record. I voted in support of this bill. It has been ratified and presented to the Governor on August 12, 2015.

- [**Estate Planning/Uniform Trust Code \(SB 336\)**](#) – The North Carolina Bar Association recommended this legislation to amend laws governing estate planning and fiduciaries, to amend the Uniform Trust Code, and to establish the Uniform Power of Appointment Act. The appointment of a standby guardian for incompetent adults originates by filing a petition to the clerk of superior court or by written designation. SB 336 enacts the Uniform Powers of Appointment Act by addressing the creation, revocation, and amendment of powers of appointment. I voted in support of this bill. It has been ratified, signed by the Governor, and is now Session Law as of August 11, 2015.
- [**Motor Vehicle Tax: Waive Penalties/Interest \(SB 273\)**](#) – SB 273 authorizes the county governing boards to reduce or waive any interest or penalties on delinquent taxes for registered motor vehicle taxes for tax years prior to July 1, 2013. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill has been ratified, signed by the Governor, and is now Session Law as of August 11, 2015.
- [**Exempt Builders' Inventory \(HB 168\)**](#) – This legislation permits a property tax exemption for any increase in value of certain improvements to real property held for sale by a builder. The builder must be engaged in the business of buying real property, making improvements to it, then reselling it. For residential property, a builder may exclude for 3 years. For commercial property, a builder may exclude for 5 years. The owner is not required to be a licensed general contractor. This bill has been ratified, signed by the Governor, and is now Session Law as of August 14, 2015.
- [**Amend/Clarify Back-Up PSAP Requirements \(HB 512\)**](#) – A Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) receives 911 calls and dispatches public safety agencies in response. In the event 911 calls cannot be received and processed in the primary PSAP, each PSAP must have a plan in tact to receive 911 calls. HB 512 sets a time extension for the implementation of back-up PSAP requirements. This legislation also requires the 911 Board to examine alternatives for uniform standards and the pricing of 911 eligible expenses through bulk purchasing and other means. I voted in support of this bill. HB 512 has been ratified and signed by the Governor on August 12, 2015.
- [**Taxpayer Protection Act \(SB 607\)**](#) – SB 607, formerly known as the Taxpayer Protection Act, is a bill to suggest a three part amendment to North Carolina's Constitution that would negatively impact the state going forward. The creation of an emergency fund, the bill's one good caveat, would require the state to put aside specific monies for emergency situations that can only then be used with the approval of super majority. The unfortunate limitations arise because of the provisions regarding a drastic cut to the cap of the income tax maximum and a hard cap to spending in the North Carolina budget. The income tax cap would be lowered from ten percent down to five; this massive cut will directly impact the state's ability to take in funds. The spending cap would hurt North Carolina even further. By implementing spending limits last seen amidst the 2008 recession, we would prevent North Carolina from being able to expand appropriately from bull markets without super majority approval. School spending, infrastructure, and economic expansion would all be greatly limited by this bill. I spoke on the Senate

floor concerning the effect this legislation would have on all North Carolina public schools. This bill was most recently passed by the Senate and will now be considered by the North Carolina House of Representatives.

- [**Protect LEO Home Address/Other Information \(SB 699\)**](#) – SB 699 is new legislation designed to protect the identities of our law enforcement officers as well as some of the information of our emergency responders. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill has received unanimous support from both the House and Senate and has been voted on and ratified by the North Carolina Legislature.
- [**Medicaid Transformation/HIE/Primary Care/Funds \(HB 372\)**](#) – The push for Medicaid expansion in North Carolina has taken another important step but has yet to reach its full potential. The North Carolina legislature has now updated the Medicaid systems in North Carolina, considered one of the first steps in Medicaid expansion, but failed to accept an amendment that was introduced that would expand Medicaid coverage to all below 133% of the poverty line. This expansion will be covered completely by the federal government for the first three years, ninety-five percent for the following three years, and ninety percent of expansion costs after that. I voted in support of this bill. The final vote in the Senate was 34-10 and is now in the House of Representatives for concurrence.
- [**Labor/2015 Technical & Conforming Changes \(SB 429\)**](#) – This bill will change and expand the role and responsibilities of the North Carolina Labor Commissioner. In addition, the Department of Labor will now also feature a commissioner of labor, a division of standards and inspections, and a division of occupational safety and health, replacing a division of statistics. I voted in support of this bill. Senate Bill 429 has been ratified and presented to the Governor on August 13, 2015.
- [**Funds Deposited with Clerk of Court \(SB 199\)**](#) – SB 199 is an update and expansion to how funds are collected with the Clerk of Court. The first change is the removal of gender from the definition of a Clerk of Court, recognizing that both men and women hold the position regularly. Further, the bill updates the amount of funds that can be deposited with the Clerk, moving from the original two thousand dollar limit to ten thousand dollars. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill has received unanimous support in its life in the North Carolina Legislature and has since been ratified.

At the General Assembly



Senator Waddell honors and celebrates Shaw University's 150th Anniversary at the Press Conference on August 12, 2015.



Senator Waddell meets with Dr. Zeiss, the President of Central Piedmont Community College, to discuss budget priorities for community colleges on August 12, 2015.



Senator Waddell discusses legislative issues with the North Carolina Indian-American Leaders on August 5, 2015.



Senator Waddell joins colleagues and members of the NAACP at the Press Conference about the Historic NAACP America's Journey for Justice on August 18, 2015.

In Charlotte, NC



Senator Waddell supports the Young Democratic Party of Mecklenburg County at the Gantt-Watt Reception on August 8, 2015.



Senator Waddell celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the 2015 Brooklyn Heritage Reunion on August 8, 2015.



Senator Waddell speaks on the importance of education at the Know Your Rights Forum at Reeder Memorial Baptist Church on August 15, 2015.

In the Media

[Click this link to view the news article on Senator Waddell's views and concerns on having an incomplete budget at the start of a new school year.](#)

The County News

Senator Waddell says: With budget changes, new problems arise

RALEIGH, NC – With time in session dwindling down, many bills are shuffled through as an attempt to fast track as many bills as possible in a mad dash to the finish. SB 607, which the Senate GOP Leadership has concocted, is another smoke and mirrors gimmick to distract North Carolinians for the corporate giveaways that remain the focus of budget debates. SB 607 has now been fast-tracked to the Senate floor for final debate and is set to then make its way to the North Carolina House of Representatives. The main impact that SB 607 will have is the creation of a new cap on income tax rates, lowering the current allowable percentage from 10% to 5%, and increasing the burden on local government and families.

"We cannot allow our state to be hampered by unneeded restrictions and still give handouts to big corporations. The new plan introduced in SB 607 is little more than a shell game playing with taxpayer dollars. By cutting the tax cap in half we grossly affect the ability of individual localities to know the amount of funds available to them and will now have to readjust their prepared budget to these new restrictions. Furthermore, the new burdens create a mock-recession that our citizens cannot afford. By limiting the abilities of local governments we will be increasing the load on many low-wage families. These families will have to go without essential programs that will then cost them money out of pocket. The unintended consequences that this program can incur, such as increased property taxes at the local level, will further hurt the citizens of North Carolina. We should do more to help the most vulnerable in North Carolina, not hinder them further." said Sen. Joyce Waddell.



Waddell

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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