

**Senator Waddell's July 29, 2015 Newsletter III**

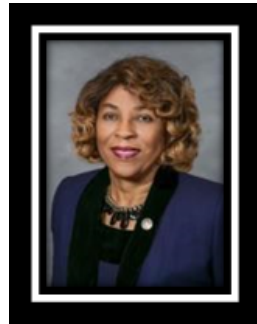
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Senator Waddell's July 29, 2015 Newsletter III

**Senator Joyce Waddell**

NC Senate

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Raleigh, NC 27603-5925*Serving District 40 and  
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NCGA Information

**The Waddell  
Bulletin****Vol. I Ed. 10 July, 2015*****Dear Friends:***

We are hard at work here at the General Assembly with the last couple of weeks winding down in Raleigh. Senator Tom Apodaca, head of the Senate Rules Committee, determined that Thursday, July 23, 2015, would be the last day of committee meetings to allow us to finish with the bills in committee as well as focus on the budget proceedings that will cue the end of this session upon completion.

North Carolina Senate majority leaders are still hard at work along with the selected members of the North Carolina House of Representatives on North Carolina's budget for the next two years. With the Democratic members of the Senate being locked out of these proceedings we hope that those involved will keep North Carolina's best interest in mind and do what is right for the state.

The North Carolina Senate passed [House Bill 561](#) with a very detrimental amendment tacked on to the bill. The bill, in its original form, preserved the anonymity of teachers and other school staff during investigations. The amendment however, instituted a moratorium that would lock school boards out of the court room and prevent them from taking up litigation against local County Boards of Commissioners. I introduced a second amendment that would return the bill to its original intent but that bill was struck down along party lines. We cannot allow our schools to be further stripped of their tools to protect themselves and our students.

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

- [\*\*Amend Composition of NC Medical Board \(HB 724\)\*\*](#) – House Bill 724 revises the membership of the North Carolina Medical Board. At least one physical assistant and one nurse practitioner must serve as members on the Board. This addition will increase the membership from 12 to 13 members. The Board regulates the practice of medicine and surgery to benefit the people of North Carolina. I am in support of this bill. It passed its third reading in the Senate on July 29, 2015. This act is effective when it becomes law.
- [\*\*Regulate Transportation Network Companies \(SB 541\)\*\*](#) – Senate Bill 541 is comprised of various new legislations that will regulate transportation network companies (TNC). The most common TNCs are Uber and Lyft, the main focus of this legislation. One of the important new caveats this bill features is that these companies will now be allowed to park and retrieve customers from the taxi lane in airports. This legislation will also require certain insurances to be maintained during the time that a driver will be working for a TNC.
- [\*\*DL Restoration/DWI Treatment Court \(SB 671\)\*\*](#) – Senate Bill 671 is proposed legislation that would restore driver's licenses to persons who have successfully completed a drug treatment or DWI treatment court program. There would be an additional twenty-five dollar fee that would be deposited into the highway fund for use by the state. I, along with forty-five of my senatorial colleagues, voted for this bill on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and have sent this bill to the North Carolina House of Representatives for concurrence.
- [\*\*Transfer Office of Charter Schools \(HB 334\)\*\*](#) - This bill will create the Office of Charter Schools located under the State Board of Education. It will also enhance the charter school application process. I spoke against this bill and questioned the bill sponsor repeatedly during Session on July 23, 2015. While this bill has passed the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate, I cannot say that this methodology is what is best for North Carolina. I, along with my Democratic colleagues in the Senate voted against this bill.
- [\*\*Amend School Health Assessment Requirement \(HB 13\)\*\*](#) – This legislation requires students entering public school for the first time to have a health assessment no more than 12 months prior to the date of eligibility for initial entry. A health assessment transmittal form must be presented to the school principal. Absences due to failure to submit the form will not count as suspensions. Students are allowed to make up missed work. I am in support of this bill. It passed its third reading on July 27, 2015, in the Senate, and is currently engrossed.
- [\*\*Soliciting Prostitution/Immunity for Minors \(HB 134\)\*\*](#) – House Bill 134 is legislation that works to protect minors who are soliciting as a prostitute and makes them immune from prosecution for the offense of solicitation of prostitution. The minor, instead of facing prosecution, will be taken into temporary protective custody as an undisciplined juvenile pursuant and when appropriate will compel the commencement of an initial investigation into child abuse and child neglect.
- [\*\*Privacy/Protection from Revenge Postings \(HB 792\)\*\*](#) – House Bill 792 is a preventative measure that will criminalize revenge postings. In our modern era the

ability to share and communicate with significant others is ever increasing. There have been more avenues for revenge when said relationships end unceremoniously. Prior to this new legislation, an ex-partner could post lewd or private photos of their former partner without facing consequences. We have worked unilaterally amongst the North Carolina Senators and Representatives to remedy this situation. A violation to this bill creates a new criminal offense. There will be further discussion on the degree of punishment an offender should receive. This bill passed its second reading on July 29, 2015.

- [Amend Statutes Governing Bail Bondsmen \(HB 446\)](#) - This legislation amends to increase the minimum age from 18 to 21 to qualify as a licensed bail bondsmen. HB 446 also lengthens the time from 72 hours to 15 days for bondsmen to return collateral security after termination of liability on the bond. In the event the bondman's license is returned, the Commissioner of Insurance is required to return the amount of the security deposit in excess of that required to secure outstanding bond liability. Bondsmen have access to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to search criminal records. I voted in support of this bill. It passed its third reading in the Senate on July 27, 2015, and was ratified and presented to the Governor.
- [Permanent Plates/Charter School \(SB 438\)](#) - This bill is simple legislation that will remove the sunset clause on charter schools being able to have permanent plates for their buses. All schools currently have permanent plates for their buses and this will simply confirm that charter schools will continue to have this privilege as well. SB 438 passed its third reading in the Senate on July 28, 2015.
- [Achieving A Better Life Experience Act \(HB 556\)](#) - Known simply as the ABLE Act, this legislation would allow families to establish special savings accounts to help pay for the care of loved ones with disabilities. This act mirrors a federal law that was already in place and allows the two to be conjoined. This bill passed its third reading in the Senate on July 28, 2015, and is currently engrossed.

## In the Media

### The County News




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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