

**Senator Waddell's September 10, 2015 Newsletter**

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*Serving District 40 and  
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**The Waddell  
 Weekly Bulletin**

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 2015**

**Dear Friends:**

As the extended budget deadline of September 18<sup>th</sup> approaches, there are significant differences that must be resolved in the state budget. There is a glimpse of hope that the budget will be completed by the third continuing resolution. While under normal circumstances we would celebrate the completion of a budget, the fact remains that this legislation is still two months overdue. It is time to finish this core mechanism of the state legislature and provide North Carolina with guidance for the coming fiscal year.

I take solace in the fact that both sides are reviewing the need for teacher assistants in the classroom. Budget negotiators are also considering funding for Driver's Education. However, it is unfortunate that some school districts have already discontinued the Driver's Ed program due to funding uncertainty.

A proposed package of tax cuts and changes was taken under consideration within the state budget. In the case of a large tax reduction, medium-sized tax reduction, or no tax reduction, there are concerns about raising fees on one side and not offsetting that with the tax reductions. Lawmakers are negotiating and working on an economic incentives package, separate from the tax package, and the governor's bond package.

Another bright spot that may be included in the new version of the budget is the inclusion of grant monies for the television and film industries that have so long made up the inner workings of coastal North Carolina. Senate and House leaders have considered thirty million dollars being used to encourage film studios and television executives to ply their craft in our state.

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!

**Bills Now Session Law**

- [\*\*Clarify Reasonable Health Insur/LTC Ombudsman \(HB 308/ S.L. 2015-220\)\*\*](#) – This legislation modifies laws concerning medical support and health insurance coverage for minor children in child support cases. The parent can receive health insurance at a reasonable cost if it does not exceed 5% of the parent’s gross income. Senate Bill 308 also creates conforming and technical changes to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The program addresses concerns and provides education for consumers in long-term care facilities. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill became law on August 18, 2015.
- [\*\*Repeal DCR's Obsolete Comms & Language.-AB \(HB 185/S.L. 2015-184\)\*\*](#) – This legislation repeals commissions that are obsolete and served their purpose within the Department of Cultural Resources. It eliminates portions of the statutes related to the printing of government publications on alkaline paper. State publications that are of historical or enduring value must be printed on alkaline paper. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill became law on August 5, 2015.
- [\*\*Cape Fear Water Resources Availability Study \(HB 186/S.L. 2015-196\)\*\*](#) – This bill directs the Environmental Review Commission (ERC), with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to conduct a study of the availability of surface water and groundwater resources in the Cape Fear River Basin. All the information and analytical tools used in the conduct of the study must be made available electronically for public review and use on the Department’s Division of Water Website. The ERC must submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the 2017 General Assembly. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill became law on August 5, 2015.
- [\*\*Church Tax Exemption/Driving Privileges \(HB 229/S.L. 2015-185\)\*\*](#) – This legislation exempts religious buildings that are under construction from local property tax. The building must be exclusively used by its owner for religious purposes upon completion. The building must be “under construction” which requires a building permit and continues until the earlier of 90 days after a certificate of occupancy is issued or 180 days after the end of active reconstruction. This bill also allows a person with a provoked driver’s license to drive to attend religious worship under a limited driving privilege. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill became law on August 5, 2015.
- [\*\*Civil Contempt/Jury Duty \(HB 284/S.L. 2015-210\)\*\*](#) – This bill clarifies that a fine is not an allowable sanction for civil contempt. A person found in civil contempt may be imprisoned for no more than 90 days for the same act of disobedience. House bill 284 also permits excused jury duty for students attending postsecondary schools out of the state. This bill became law on August 11, 2015.

*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](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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