

Senator Joyce Waddell's October 5, 2015 Newsletter

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Senator Joyce WaddellNC Senate
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**The Waddell
Weekly Bulletin**

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***Dear Friends:***

Almost 80 days late and after a last minute, overnight push to get through even more divisive social legislation, GOP leadership has finally closed down the long session here at the NCGA. September 28, 2015, marked the last day of session, and we have officially adjourned our part-time term for the year. The Senate will reconvene on April 25, 2016, to begin the short session.

However, before session ended, there was a rush to ratify bills that failed earlier in the session and those taken into further consideration. Certain divisive social policies, such as shifting tax funding to charter schools, undercutting non-discrimination laws, and the defunding of important Planned Parenthood teen pregnancy prevention programs, showed back up at the 11th hour in an attempt by GOP leadership to push through legislation without public input. This deceptive style of legislating has been par for the course under GOP leadership this long-session, and is shameful. The short session is designed for Senators and Representatives to attend study committees to analyze and review possible legislation and policy for the upcoming long session. These committees are very important to legislators, because it provides time to research and study policy with experts in the fields of focus.

The next newsletter you will receive will highlight the provisions in the 2015-2017 Final Budget.

Please continue at 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

- **[Medicaid Transformation and Reorganization \(HB 372/S.L. 2015-245\)](#)** - The Medicaid system of North Carolina has been moved to a private and managed care system from a fee-for-service model in which doctors are paid for each service they provide. This

change was introduced as an attempt to simplify the provision of medical service and save the state money. However, when examined in comparison to other states that have previously privatized their Medicaid system, the plan that North Carolina now has in place may end up convoluting patient care and accruing more costs than before. One of the main concerns is that insurers will have the incentive to pay for fewer services rather than ensure patients receive all the treatments they need. This legislation was signed by the Governor on September 23, 2015, and is now Session Law.

- [**Connect NC Bond Act of 2015 \(HB 943\)**](#) – This legislation was once a transportation bond for the improvement of North Carolina infrastructure that was originally proposed by Governor Pat McCrory and adopted by the North Carolina House of Representatives. It has since been altered and adopted by the Senate and aims to improve the campuses of colleges across the state. The bond package will now go to the voters for approval and will give the individual colleges across the state monies to restore buildings and recoup grounds care. This legislation was presented to the Governor on October 1, 2015, and awaits his signature.
- [**Elections \(HB 373\)**](#) – This bill was finalized to set the standard for the presidential election in 2016. The presidential primary will now be set on March 15, 2016. This change has been introduced to try and bring a greater emphasis of presidential candidates to North Carolina and the business that comes along with it. This change will only impact the 2016 election and the 2020 election and elections past that will be determined at a later date. House Bill 373 was presented to the Governor on October 1, 2015, and awaits his signature.
- [**Amend Qualifications/Practice of Counseling \(SB 279\)**](#) – This legislation originally began as a determinant of who could suggest sexual education topics, regardless of their expertise. However, an extra provision was recently added that would prevent cities from raising the minimum wage or enforcing anti-discrimination housing and employment protections for LGBT citizens. The Senate received an older version of the bill which included the changes to sexual education but removed the local government restrictions. Senate Bill 279 was presented to the Governor on October 1, 2015, and awaits his signature.
- [**GSC Technical Corrections 2015 \(SB 119\)**](#) – This bill is usually the last bill lawmakers pass in a session. It makes significant technical changes to major 2015 bills, such as correcting punctuation, grammar, and incorrect references to other statutes. It clarifies language and provisions passed earlier in the year to correct unintended consequences. It modifies policy with little debate. This bill addresses concerns related to immigration. It allows police to use ID cards created by local governments or nonprofits to help determine residency or identity if needed. Another provision included in this legislation adjusts some campaign finance charges that would conduct campaigns for candidates who would be eligible members of partisan House and Senate caucuses to create campaign committees that would bypass state parties. This bill was presented to the Governor on October 1, 2015, and awaits his signature.

At the General Assembly



Senator Waddell and her Sponsored Senate Pages, Brennan Frizzell and Ama Germain, at Session. The pages both attend Butler High School in Charlotte, NC.



Senator Waddell meets with a representative of Belhaven Hospital on September 29, 2015, to discuss Senate Bill 698 in hopes of reopening the hospital.



Senator Waddell attends the Consul General of Mexico's Reception to honor the 205th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico on September 15, 2015.

In Charlotte, NC



Senator Waddell attends the Bridlewood Community Association Pride and Safety Festival.



The Lawrence Orr Family was present in large numbers at the Ribbon Cutting Dedication of the Lawrence Orr Elementary School on September 25, 2015.



Senator Waddell educates a class of 4th and 5th grade students about her experience working as a public official on September 25, 2015.

In the Media

- [**Charter School Funding \(HB 539\)**](#) – House Bill 539, originally a bill to allow school playgrounds to be used for events, has since been changed to alter funding for public schools and reassign said monies for charter schools. This adjustment would affect the per-pupil funds, money that is allotted for each student, and will be pooled and then split among public and charter schools, unlike the original method which gave charter schools their standard funding. This new method will now detract from public school funds and boost the coffers of the charter school system. I introduced an amendment to allow per-pupil money to be transferred between the schools when students transfer, but the amendment was struck down along party lines. This bill passed the second and third reading in the Senate. It was sent to the House then re-referred to the committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House. This bill may be revisited in the 2016 short session.

Senator Waddell shares her concerns about House Bill 539, Charter School Funding, in The Charlotte Observer:

“The friction between our traditional schools and the charters continues to increase, and we don’t want that friction,” said Sen. Joyce Waddell, a Mecklenburg County Democrat who opposed the bill. “We want things to be fair, just and honest.”

[Click this link to read more about it!](#)

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

*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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