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Senator Joyce Waddell's December 18, 2015 Newsletter

Jyrita Moore (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 9:07 AM

Senator Joyce Waddell's December 18, 2015 Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell
 NC Senate
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 Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

*Serving District 40 and
 Mecklenburg County*

**Committees**

- Appropriations on Education/
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- Joint Legislative Program
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- Joint Legislative Education Oversight
- Joint Legislative Commission
on Energy Policy

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The Waddell Weekly Bulletin



Vol. I Ed. 21 December 18, 2015

Dear Friends:

Between legislative sessions, Senators and Representatives are assigned to study committees to analyze and review possible legislation for the upcoming long session. I have been appointed to the following study committees: Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, and Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy Committee. I look forward to studying the many issues of importance to the State.

No Child Left Behind was designed in 2002 to bring attention to struggling students in America by holding schools accountable for meeting high performance standards. This legislation failed to succeed on many measures. Test scores did not meet the proficiency the law mandated, causing some states, including North Carolina, to rearrange academic standards so more students could pass.

President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on Thursday, December 10, 2015, to succeed the No Child Left Behind law. The new legislation reduces the federal government's role in education, which allows teachers more freedom in the classroom, and places less emphasis on the importance and frequency of tests.

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires some standardized testing in Math and English for third through eighth grade students. There is now flexibility on how and when the tests are administered. States will lose federal money if there is no attempt to improve the bottom 5 percent of schools. Although accountability goals are left up to the state, there are guidelines that clarify what the goals should include.

A provision in The Every Student Succeeds Act aims at increasing the funding for experienced educators in schools. North Carolina will receive an additional \$24 million per year for professional development and retention of teachers. This law will take effect in mid-year 2017.

The Every Student Succeeds Act creates a balance of power between North Carolina and the federal government in education policy. It is saddening that North Carolina ranks at the bottom of the nation in education funding. We must strive to raise the state's low ranking and analyze ways to improve achievement in the classroom. Performance standards should be examined to ensure our students are prepared for the global economy. It is vitally important for every student to receive a world-class education.

I cannot achieve anything without the support of my constituents. Thank you very much for your continued support!

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.

Session News

Laws Effective January 1, 2016

- [Registration Renewal Notice/E-Mail.-AB \(Senate Bill 621 / S.L. 2015-108\)](#) – This legislation authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles to send notice of vehicle registration renewal by email, subject to the written consent from the owner of the motor vehicle. Any vehicle property tax the owner owes will also be included in the electronic notice. Currently, the DMV sends the combined property tax and vehicle registration notice by regular mail. I voted in support of this legislation. Senate Bill 621 was signed by the Governor on June 24, 2015, and will become effective on January 1, 2016.
- [Allow Protected Consumer Security Freezes \(House Bill 607 / S.L. 2015-193\)](#) – This bill requires a credit reporting agency to place a security freeze on a protected consumer's credit report at the request of the protected consumer's authorized representative. It protects children, disabled adults, or other residents with limited ability to monitor their credit from identity theft. The security freeze remains in effect until the protected consumer or representative requests its removal, or until the agency determines it was based on a material representation of fact. The security freeze is removed within 30 days of the occurrence of either event. I voted in support of this legislation. House Bill 607 was signed by the Governor on August 5, 2015, and will become effective on January 1, 2016.
- [Transition Certain Abuse Investigations/DCDEE \(Senate Bill 578 / S.L. 2015-123\)](#) – This legislation transitions abuse and neglect investigations in the child care facilities to the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). It requires DHHS, local departments of social services, and local law enforcement to ensure that reports of child maltreatment in child care facilities are properly investigated. I voted in support of this legislation. Senate Bill 578 was signed by the Governor on June 29, 2015, and will become effective on January 1, 2016.
- [Next Generation 911 \(House Bill 730 / S.L. 2015-261\)](#) – Next generation 911 refers to an initiative to improve public emergency communications through the use of technology and advanced services. This legislation authorizes the North Carolina 911 Board to create a Next Generation 911 Reserve Fund to fund the implementation of next generation 911. It requires the 911 Board to reserve 10% of all 911 fees the Board receives to the Next Generation 911 Reserve Fund. The funds collected could be used for statewide 911 projects, or to directly fund the public-safety answering point (PSAP) implementation of next generation 911 systems. I voted in support of this legislation. House Bill 730 was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2015, and will become effective on January 1, 2016.
- [Equalize Tax on Propane Used as a Motor Fuel \(Senate Bill 448 / S.L. 2015-224\)](#) – This bill amends the motor fuels tax applicable to liquefied propane gas used as a motor fuel by specifying that motor fuel tax is applied to the gas gallon equivalent of liquefied propane gas. The gas gallon equivalent is 5.75 pounds of liquefied propane gas. Senate Bill 448 was signed by the Governor on August 18, 2015, and will become effective on January 1, 2016.

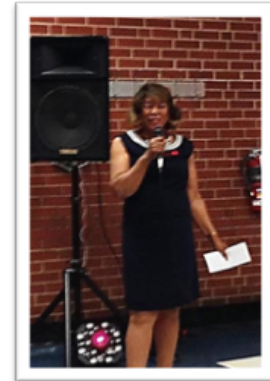
In Charlotte, NC



Senator Joyce Waddell was honored and recognized for her exemplary service to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board at a reception on Tuesday, December 8, 2015.



Senator Joyce Waddell educates senior citizens about legislation in taxes that they should become aware of when filing on Friday, December 11, 2015.



Senator Joyce Waddell speaks to the Black Political Caucus on Sunday, December 13, 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.

*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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