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Senator Joyce Waddell's May 2, 2016 Newsletter

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

Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 4:41 PM

Senator Joyce Waddell's May 2, 2016 Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell

NC Senate

300 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 515

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The Waddell

Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 2 Ed. 4

May 2, 2016

Dear Friends:

On Monday, I returned to Raleigh along with the other North Carolina legislators to convene for a short Session at the General Assembly. I have many goals to achieve for our great state to begin making necessary public investments that enhance the lives of every citizen.

Our current tax system favors the wealthiest of citizens while making low- and middle- income taxpayers bear the burden of taxes that were enacted on services such as repairs, installations and maintenance. We need a tax system that allows our state to make investments such as improving our education system and providing affordable housing. One of my top priorities in the Senate is increasing teacher pay and providing additional resources for our classrooms. North Carolina will continue to lose our best educators if they do not receive more incentives to teach. In this short legislative session, I will continue to fight for the good of our children and families by introducing and supporting legislation which benefits them.

There are a few spots currently available for students interested in participating in the 2016 North Carolina Senate Page Program. Students interested in the program should contact my office at joyce.waddell@ncleg.net or 919-733-5650. If you have any questions or wish to learn more about the North Carolina Senate Page Program, please contact the Senate Page Coordinator, Michael Perdue, at Michael.Perdue@ncleg.net or 919-733-5702.

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 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

Unemployment Insurance Technical Changes (Senate Bill 725)

– This legislation makes technical

changes to the state's unemployment insurance laws. The bill establishes that corporations and business entities may no longer be assigned new employer numbers for unemployment insurance reporting when a change occurs in the organization of an existing business enterprise. When the business displays a continuity of control or maintains the same authority, ownership of business, property, or assets, it is required to identify to the state as the same entity. The purpose of the legislation is to prevent corporations with high employee turnover rates and poor business practices from avoiding tax penalties. "SUTA dumping," created a loophole that allowed corporations to circumvent paying unemployment insurance taxes and its responsibilities to the state under the State Unemployment Tax Act (SUTA). I voted in support of this legislation. This bill passed its third reading in the Senate on April 28, 2016.

- [IRC Update \(Senate Bill 726\)](#) – This bill updates the reference to the Internal Revenue Code from January 1, 2015, to January 1, 2016, and decouples certain provisions of the federal Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (PATH Act). North Carolina conforms to the federal Internal Revenue Codes by allowing primary and secondary educators to take a deduction for qualified expenses up to \$250 for paid out-of-pocket during the year. It allows taxpayers to exclude income amounts received as the result of being wrongfully incarcerated. It provides exclusions up to \$100,000 for Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA) distributions to charities, higher education costs, and Mortgage Premiums. I voted against this legislation. This bill passed its third reading in the Senate on April 28, 2016.
- [Various Changes to the Revenue Laws \(Senate Bill 729\)](#) – This legislation alters some tax practices within the state by adjusting the rate of taxation, dates of collection, exclusions, and deductions, in businesses, individuals, and sales. It clarifies that an exercise of the royalty reporting option by a taxpayer will not impact whether the taxpayer has nexus or is required to collect and pay tax on sales in the state. It does not permit receipts to be excluded from the calculation of the sales factor. The bill also makes expense payments between parent companies and the subsidiaries consistent with North Carolina and out-of-state businesses. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill passed its third reading in the Senate on April 28, 2016.
- [Governor Pat McCrory's 2016-2017 Budget Proposal](#) – The largest part of the proposed budget consists of \$12.8 billion allocated for education, which contains plans to increase teacher pay and provide more resources to classrooms. The budget highlights raising teacher pay to \$50,000, which is a 5 percent pay increase, for the first time in state history. Veteran teachers with more than 24 years of service would receive a \$5,000 bonus. Money has also been allotted to improve North Carolina's higher education by supporting community colleges and improving faculty recruitment. The next largest portion of the budget is allocated to fund Health and Human Services with more than 70% to go towards Medicaid. \$300 million would also be contributed to the rainy day fund which is in place to keep a deposit of money for the future in the case of economic trouble.

The budget would provide a \$10 million pay increase for Correctional Officers and a 5 percent pay increase for State Bureau of Investigation Agents, Alcohol Law Enforcement Agents, Assistant District Attorneys, and Assistant Public Defenders. It would also allocate money to improve the state's transportation system including improving state roads and building new ones.

At the General Assembly



Senator Joyce Waddell listens to the concerns of Generation



Senator Joyce Waddell reviews the bills

Opportunity about the ability to be able to speak freely on their college campuses. She educates the students about the First Amendment to the United States Constitution on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

on the Senate calendar in preparation for the first day of voting in short Session on Wednesday, April 27, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell speaks at the Parental / Grandparent Alienation Awareness Rally about the issues of shared parenting and grandparents' rights. She shared the importance of giving children access to all of their family on Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

In Charlotte, NC

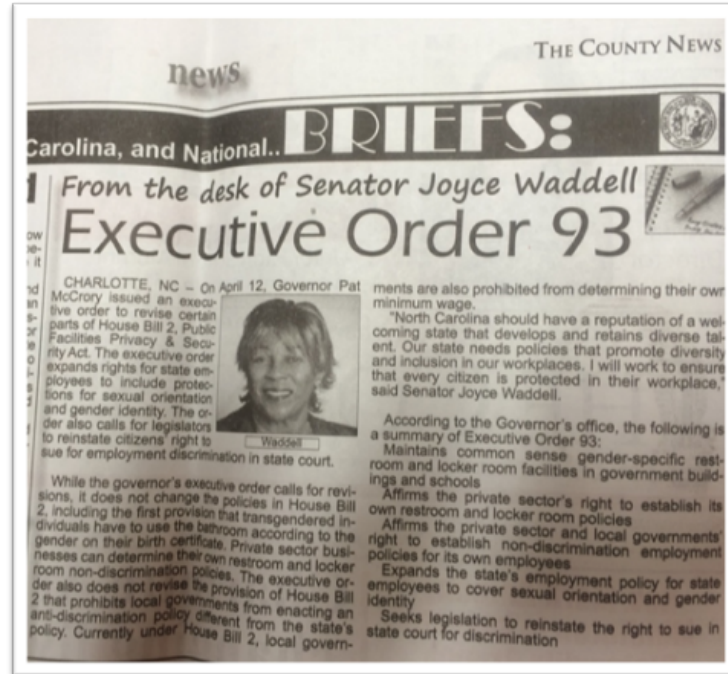


Senator Joyce Waddell received the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award from Crime Victims' Coalition for introducing Senate Bill 207, Aggravating Factor/Violent Act Before Minor, which speaks out against violence in the face of a minor at Rebecca's Taste of the South on Wednesday, April 13, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell speaks to young people about the work in the North Carolina General Assembly at A Hero's Ball: 3rd Annual Carolina Veteran Expo on Sunday, April 24, 2016.

The County News



Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant, Jyrity 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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