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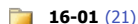


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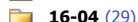
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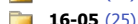
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Senator Joyce Waddell's June 21, 2016 Newsletter

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

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 1:01 PM

Senator Joyce Waddell's June 21, 2016 Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell
NC Senate
300 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 515
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

*Serving District 40 and
Mecklenburg County*



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The Waddell Weekly Bulletin

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June 21, 2016



Dear Friends:

This week the General Assembly has been vigorously active as advocates, activists, and protestors from across the state came out to petition legislators and express their discontent with policies that have been enacted during this session. On Wednesday, June 16, current and future retirees of North Carolina, including a number from Mecklenburg County, met with me and fellow legislators to hold a press conference. The subject of discussion was the need for Cost-of-Living Adjustments for our state's retirees. Due to the increasing cost-of-living, our state's outdated retirement and pension plans are not providing retired state employees with enough to make ends meet. As retirees age, it is important that we provide them with the appropriate compensation for their service to North Carolina. Please click the following link to view the WRAL Retiree COLA Press Conference:
<http://www.wral.com/news/state/nccapitol/video/15779641/>

This past weekend's events on Sunday morning, June 12, in Orlando, Florida, leave me with a heavy heart. In these trying times, it is important that we come together as a nation to ensure our mutual advancement of peace. The senseless murder of 49 American citizens and the injury of 53 more, is an absolute tragedy. However, it is important that we come together as a society instead of allowing senseless acts of violence to divide us. My prayers go out to the families and friends of those victimized by the act of terror in Orlando, especially to those of native North Carolinians Shane Tomlinson and Tevin Crosby. For many North Carolina residents, this tragedy hits close to home, and I would like to extend my condolences.

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

- **[Math Standard Course of Study Revisions \(House Bill 657\)](#)** – This controversial bill would revamp the way that K-12 mathematics courses of study would operate in our state. The bill mandates that the State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges analyze the current math education system in order to create a revised course of study. The bill proposes offering families the option to place their children on a traditional math track, taking Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II. The second option would be to follow the current Common Core course of study that would be recommended for University preparation, taking Integrated Math I-IV. The State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges would submit a report to the North Carolina General Assembly by March 15, 2018. I did not support this legislation. This legislation passed its third reading in the Senate on June 16, 2016. You can view the discussion and debate during session on this legislation by clicking this link: <http://www.wral.com/news/state/nccapitol/video/15779642/>
- **[Const. Amd. - Max. Income Tax Rate of 5.5% \(Senate Bill 817\)](#)** – This proposed constitutional amendment would cap the state income tax rate at 5.5%. The amendment would have to be passed by 3/5 majority of legislators in both houses. After the bill passes the General Assembly, it would have to be voted on by referendum by the eligible voters of the state. If the voters of the state pass this constitutional amendment, it will become permanent law until another amendment is drafted to repeal it. As great as a reduction of taxes may sound, a permanent state tax rate of 5.5% would only be beneficial to wealthier North Carolinians as the loss in state revenue will be supplemented by increased sales taxes. This bill is still being debated and will be voted on later this session. I am not in support of this amendment.
- **[NC Money Transmitters Act-AB \(Senate Bill 680/House Bill 289\)](#)** – This legislation would define and set out the terms for what the state considers money in business and personal transactions. Money is defined as anything holding monetary value. The bill specifically includes maintenance and regulation of virtual currency. It would prohibit the allowance of money transmissions that are not authorized through the Nationwide Mortgage Lending System and Registry unless an individual, entity, or transaction has received the approval of the Commissioner of Banks after finding the public interest is best served in doing so. Any individuals seeking to become licensed money transmitters are required to maintain a minimum net worth of \$250,000. However, the bill also would allow the Commissioner to change the value of this figure as the Commissioner sees fit. Applicants for licensed money transmissions must post and maintain a surety bond of \$150,000 to protect the investments of those utilizing their services. However, this facet of the bill is controversial as transactions exceeding this amount do not explicitly have a guarantee of being secured. Some other controversial facets of this bill are the inclusion of virtual currency, which has not yet been backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and is also often traded on sub-web networks that are difficult to trace and cannot be considered secure for all parties participating in transactions. Virtual currency can be very easily moved without a trace and stored on any digital drive. This would make regulation of virtual currency quite difficult. The bill mandates that all transactions be documented for 3 years after their transmission. The application fee for individuals seeking a monetary transmission license would be \$1,500 and failure to comply with any of the bills regulations would be considered a class 1 misdemeanor. This bill is currently under review in the Senate Finance Committee.
- **[Various Charter School Law Changes \(House Bill 242\)](#)** – This bill would make various changes to charter school laws. First, it would get rid of provisions in NC law that mandate the process for renewals and revisions of charter schools, both material and non-material, and replace them in separate statutes. The statute would set out provisions for the State Board of Education (SBE) to review the operations of a charter at least once prior to the expiration of the charter and clarify that a renewal request will take into account the three years immediately preceding it. The statute would provide that if a charter school does not meet the three conditions set out in the bill for renewal then the SBE may renew the charter for less than 10 years or may not renew it at all. The SBE has the responsibility of either granting a charter or not within a mandatory 150 day period. The bill includes provisions that would allow for the SBE to waive the requirement for a 10% maximum increase in enrollment if the charter school meets other requirements that adhere to those of material revisions if enrollment growth is within a reasonable margin of that necessary for a material revision. Finally, the bill delegates the responsibility of leasing unused facilities to the local school administrative units and would allow for charter schools priority in enrolling students who have previously been matriculating through the charter school system, making their transitions between middle and high school easier. I voted against this legislation. This bill passed its third reading in the Senate on June 14, 2016.

At the General Assembly



Senator Joyce Waddell speaks at NC Stand with Women or Stand in the Way event to address legislation that affects NC women on Tuesday, June 14, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell participates in the Milk Chugging Contest between the House and the Senate as a member of the Senate team on Tuesday, June 14, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell joins the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Retired School Personnel, North Carolina Retired School Personnel, and other legislators at a press conference in support of a Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for retired teachers and state employees on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell joins advocates from Charlotte in support of a Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for retired teachers and state employees after the press conference on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

The County News

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From the desk of Senator Joyce Waddell

Achievement School District

Charlotte, NC – The Achievement School District (ASD) is comprised of low-performing schools seized by the state from their Local Education Administrators (LEAs) to be managed by charter school operators. The House of Representatives passed House Bill 1080 to implement the achievement school district in North Carolina. It provides that five struggling elementary schools be assigned a superintendent chosen by the State Board of Education to oversee their development under a five-year contract. Though successful schools could receive a three-year extension, failing schools have the ability to cancel their contracts early. The bill proposes two other provisions. First, the LEAs from which a school was taken would accordingly receive permission and extra funding to install "innovation zones" in up to three of its other struggling schools. Secondly, the bill would allow the LEAs the option to partake in the "principal turn-around model" which would discharge the principals of struggling schools and replace them with principals that have a more successful track record.

While the purpose of the ASD would be to help under-resourced and low-performing schools improve the quality of education that they provide to

students, there are still concerns about how effective it might be. There is little evidence that shows that these programs work. Some economists have asserted that keeping low-performing schools within their current districts and providing the resources and flexibility to develop them would yield better results than handing these schools over to charters. House Bill 1080 passed in the House with a 60-49 vote. Shortly, the bill will reach the Senate floor.

"It is vital that our children, especially those in primary school, are not overlooked. They deserve the ability to access quality learning regardless of the school they attend in the district. However, achievement school districts have displayed questionable results in other states where these programs have been implemented. It is important that we choose our heading wisely when the futures of our youth are at stake," said Senator Joyce Waddell.



Waddell

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.

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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