

**Senator Joyce Waddell's February 21, 2017, Newsletter**

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 5:27 PM

Senator Joyce Waddell's February 21, 2017, Newsletter

[Click to view all folders](#)[Manage Folders...](#)

**Senator Joyce Waddell**  
 NC Senate  
 1113 Legislative Building  
 16 West Jones Street  
 Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

## The Waddell Weekly Bulletin



*Serving District 40*  
*Mecklenburg County*

**Vol. 3 Ed. 1**      **February 21,**  
**No. 5**              **2017**

**Committees**

Appropriations on Education/Higher Education  
 Education/Higher Education  
 Finance  
 Transportation

Add Me on Facebook



Follow Me on Twitter!



NCGA Information



My Website

**Dear Friends:**

A recent [report](#) by the General Assembly's Program Evaluation Division stated that low-performing schools should be exempt from the state's academic calendar laws. The state law restricts the authority of the local boards of education by limiting how early and late the school year can start or end. Currently, the school year may not be earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and end no later than the Friday closest to June 11. The report recommends that low-performing schools should have more flexibility to alter their school calendars and evaluate whether or not new schedules improve academic performance. Opponents of this measure believe that it would hurt travel and tourism industries that depend on the large summer break for revenue.

On Tuesday, the Joint Appropriations/Base Budget Committee of the House and Senate met to discuss the budget revenue forecast for the next two years. State economists projected a revenue surplus of \$552.5 million. The surplus could result in \$1.5 billion in collections starting July 1 through mid-2019. This year, the Senate is assigned to prepare a state budget proposal. The House will then create a different version. Afterwards, both chambers will compromise and craft the final bill to send to the Governor.

*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](http://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](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net).*

*I look forward to hearing from you!*

## Legislative Update

- [Amend Appointments/UNC Bd of Governors \(House Bill 39\)](#) – This legislation reduces the membership of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors

from 32 to 24 by 2019. The Board members serve four-year terms. 12 members would be appointed this year and another 12 in 2019. The legislation was able to withstand amendment changes and passed the House and Senate. The bill currently awaits Governor Cooper's signature to become law.

- [\*\*Common Sense Compromise to Repeal HB 2 \(Senate Bill 93/House Bill 107\)\*\*](#) – This legislation would fully repeal House Bill 2 and require that counties and municipalities provide the legislature and the public with at least a 30-day notice before adopting nondiscrimination ordinances extending protections beyond state law. The bill would also increase penalties for felony assault in public facilities. The purpose of the bill is not only to repeal House Bill 2 but to foster and strengthen communication between state lawmakers. Senator Joyce Waddell is a co-sponsor of this legislation.
- [\*\*Raise Awareness of Lupus \(Senate Bill 83\)\*\*](#) – Approximately 1.5 million Americans and 35,000 to 40,000 North Carolina citizens currently suffer from this acute and chronic autoimmune disease. Although lupus mostly affects women of childbearing age, minorities are two to three times more likely to develop the disease. This bill would designate May of each year as Lupus Awareness Month and establish the Lupus Advisory Council in the Department of Health and Human Services. The duties and responsibilities of the Council would be to make recommendations, identify problems associated with existing laws, examine financing and access to health services, and review health promotion and disease prevention strategies relating to residents who have lupus. Senator Joyce Waddell is a co-sponsor of this legislation.
- [\*\*NC Adopt Equal Rights Amendment \(Senate Bill 85/House Bill 102\)\*\*](#) – This legislation would ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the United States Constitution. The ERA would guarantee the equal rights of women by the United States or by any State. Congress sent the ERA to the states for ratification in 1972. North Carolina is one of three states that need to pass the amendment to become a part of the U.S. Constitution. Senator Joyce Waddell is a co-sponsor of this legislation.
- [\*\*Office of State Auditor/Corrective Action/PED \(Senate Bill 89/House Bill 17\)\*\*](#) – In an attempt to create a more transparent and accountable state government, this legislation would require the State Auditor to conduct a follow-up audit on an underperforming state agency. The State Auditor would report any agencies that failed to make significant progress to the General Assembly. Starting January 1, 2018, the State Auditor would prepare an annual report identifying all findings of deficiencies. Senator Joyce Waddell is a co-sponsor of this legislation.

## **At the General Assembly**



Senator Joyce Waddell joins a press conference discussing the importance of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

## The County News



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.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please click [here](#).

