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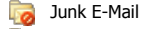
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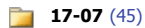
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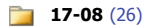
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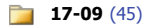

16-12 Grants Committee



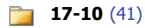
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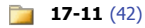
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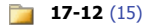
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## For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's New Laws Take Effect December 1

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

Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 8:55 AM



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate  
Mecklenburg County



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 4, 2017

**CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell**

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### New Laws Take Effect December 1

**Charlotte, NC** – On December 1, a total of 20 new laws became effective. Here is an overview of some of the new legislation:

**Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws/Studies:** Senate Bill 548/S.L. 2017-151 is a bill in which Senator Joyce Waddell co-sponsored. The bill strengthens human trafficking laws by increasing the existing Class F felony of human trafficking with an adult victim to a Class C felony, and increases the current Class C felony of human trafficking with a minor victim to a Class B1 felony. A Class C felony and a Class B1 felony are considered high-level felonies and could result in a sentence of up to life in prison. Senate Bill 548 also requires massage and bodywork therapy establishments to obtain a license, as well as directs the State Department of Health and Human Services to study if it is possible to provide human trafficking training to healthcare providers, emergency medical providers, and other first responders. This legislation was signed by Governor Roy Cooper on July 20.

**Expungement Process Modifications:** Senate Bill 445/S.L. 2017-195 makes modifications to the existing expunction law. The modifications are as follows: standardizes the filing procedures for expunction; authorizes prosecutors to access certain records of expunction; allows certain expunged criminal acts to be considered in calculating prior record levels during sentencing for subsequent offenses; reduces the waiting period for certain types of expunctions; and makes other modifications to the expunction process. This legislation was signed into law by Governor Cooper on July 28.

**Criminal Offense/Vandalize Fire & EMS Equipment:** House Bill 98/S.L. 2017-89 creates the specific criminal offense of intentionally damaging equipment used for fire-fighting or emergency medical services. A person convicted of this offense is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Governor Cooper signed this bill into law on June 30.

**“Please take into consideration the legislation that came into effect on December 1. I worked hard this past session to resolve the concerns of my constituents and support legislation that would truly make a difference. These bills ensure the safety of citizens throughout the State by modifying and strengthening existing laws. I will continue to support measures that ensure the safety of the citizens of this State and promote their future success,”** said Senator Joyce Waddell.

