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## For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's College Transfers and Class-Size Mandate

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**Sent:** Friday, February 09, 2018 4:21 PM



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



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, February 9, 2018

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**College Transfers and Class-Size Mandate**

**Charlotte, NC** – On Tuesday, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee received an update on the UNC system and community college system’s partnership to help smooth transitions for transfer students. The partnership assures admission to a NC public university for those who graduate from a NC community college with either an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree. According to a report, in 2016, transfer students who received an Associate’s degree had an average GPA of 3.03. Transfer students with 30 credits or more that did not receive a degree had an average GPA of 2.75, while transfers with less than 30 credits had an average GPA of 2.6. Juniors who started at a university as freshmen have an average GPA of 3.06. UNC system officials say they are working to better educate students about the transfer process and improve communication between the two systems.

**“The UNC system and community college system’s program is a great opportunity for students to excel and become exemplary citizens,” said Senator Joyce Waddell.**

On Thursday, the Republicans introduced a new proposal to address the controversial class-size mandate passed last year, House Bill 13, Class Size Requirement Changes. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, House Bill 13 would decrease the average class size from 21 to 17 in Kindergarten to third grade. House Bill 13 would have cost Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) approximately \$23 million to hire 353 more K-3 teachers. The legislation proposal, House Bill 90, would delay the class size requirements until 2022. The bill would also allocate approximately \$61 million to compensate program enhancement teachers, such as music, art, and physical education instructors.

Another provision of House Bill 90 addresses the \$57.8 million Governor Roy Cooper negotiated with Duke Energy and Dominion Energy to alleviate negative impacts of the controversial Atlantic Coast Pipeline project. The funds were intended for environmental mitigation initiatives. Republican legislators decided to designate this funding to school districts located in through which the Atlantic Coast Pipeline runs.

The North Carolina Senate convened in session on Friday to take up the measure. House Bill 90 passed the Senate 37-5, with a few Democrats opposing the legislation.

**“I voted in support of this legislation, because the delay in class-size requirements and additional funding for specialty teachers are steps in the right direction. However, the measure should remain a**

**standalone bill without any other controversial measures," said Senator Waddell.**

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