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Senator Joyce Waddell's June 5, 2018, Newsletter
 Jyrta Moore (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 1:00 PM

Attachments: image009.png (501 KB); image010.png (493 KB);

Senator Joyce Waddell's June 5, 2018, Newsletter

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

*Serving District 40
 Mecklenburg County*



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- Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources
- Appropriations on Education/Higher Education
- Education/Higher Education
- Finance
- Transportation
- Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight
- Joint Legislative Education Oversight
- Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy
- Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the North Carolina State Lottery
- Joint Legislative Study Committee on the Division of Local School Administrative Units

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The Waddell Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 4 Ed. 1 June 5, 2018
No. 1



Dear Friends:

On May 16, Senate and House members returned to Raleigh for the 2018 short session.

The 2018 short session's primary focus is to make adjustments to the two-year budget implemented into law in 2017. Additionally, policy that made crossover from 2017 and new legislation recently introduced may be considered.

The GOP legislative leadership has announced taking a different course when tweaking the budgetary process during the short session. A budgetary process should include an open and transparent discussion during subcommittee meetings followed by base budget appropriations meetings. During base budget appropriation meetings, members are allowed their due diligence being afforded the opportunity to submit amendments in areas of budgetary concern.

It has been noted that the process mentioned above would not occur. Leadership discussed strategy of skipping the amendment process and chamber floor debate. Accordingly, the last actions of the budgetary process is a conference report. A conference report is the final product of both chambers, and a yes or no vote is procedural during session.

My fellow constituents, I in no way find these proposed actions transparent. It removes my voice along with other minority members and of those with whom the GOP is displeased.

The Senate and House approved a \$23.9 billion budget, with most Democrats voting in opposition. Stay tuned to receive the details of the budget.

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!

Senate Bill 99, Appropriations Act of 2018

Ø EDUCATION

- Increases funding for public education by nearly \$700 million.
- Fully funds K-12, community college and public university enrollment growth.
- Provides \$35 million for school safety initiatives, including new grant programs to support students in crisis, school safety training, safety equipment and youth mental health personnel.
- Invests an additional \$11.9 million in textbooks and digital resources, bringing the total annual state funding for textbooks to \$73.9 million – a \$71.4 million increase from the last Democrat-authored budget.
- Directs additional lottery funds toward grants to economically struggling, rural counties to assist with critical public school building needs.
- Maintains smaller class sizes in core academic subjects and keeps a new salary allotment for kindergarten through fifth grade program enhancement teachers – like music, art and physical education – beginning next school year.
- Increases funding to Eastern North Carolina STEM.
- Doubles the number of local school districts eligible to participate in the "TA to Teacher" program that helps teacher assistants receive training to become teachers.
- Protects the Read to Achieve, Teach for America, and Communities in Schools programs from being cut by the Department of Public Instruction.
- Allocates close to \$15 million to community colleges for workforce training programs.
- Fully funds the N.C. Promise Program, which guarantees in-state undergraduate students at three schools across the state pay just \$500 per semester for tuition.
- Includes new funding for medical education, including funding increases to the UNC School of Medicine's Asheville campus.
- Increases funding for Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grants by more than \$3 million to reduce the wait list.

Ø SALARIES AND BENEFITS

- Provides an average 6.5 percent pay raise for teachers, which will bring the average increase to teachers' base pay to nearly 20 percent since the 2013-14 school year.

- Allocates nearly \$12 million to provide a permanent salary increase to veteran teachers with more than 25 years of experience.
- Directs an additional \$22 million toward performance-based bonuses to top-performing 4th and 5th grade reading teachers and 4th-8th grade math teachers whose students achieve the most academic growth.
- Funds a 6.9 percent increase to the principal salary schedule, which will bring the total increase to principals' base pay to 13.1 percent since the 2016-17 school year.
- Provides performance bonuses for principals whose students achieve the most academic growth. Under the agreement, principals could earn bonuses of up to \$20,000 on top of their base salaries.
- Includes more than \$28 million to provide a 2 percent pay raise to other school employees.
- Offers a 2 percent permanent salary increase for most state employees and a one-time cost-of-living supplement for retirees.
- Raises the minimum salary for all permanent, full-time state employees to at least \$31,200.
- Funds a new pay plan for State Highway Patrol troopers that will raise starting pay to \$44,000 and provide troopers a roughly eight percent average pay raise. The new plan will also accelerate the timeframe for a trooper to get to top pay to six years.
- Includes roughly \$22 million to provide correctional officers working in state prisons a four percent salary increase. The budget also expand the covered population for the line of duty death benefit, and double the benefit's value from \$50,000 to \$100,000, ensuring all families of the victims from recent prison attacks receive that benefit.
- Allocates \$20 million for pay raises for public university employees and \$24 million for community college employees.

Ø HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Provides over \$18 million to add 3,525 new pre-K slots – and includes a plan to eliminate 100 percent of the state's wait list for at-risk children by 2021.
- Directs \$60 million from the Medicaid Transformation Reserve to be used for start-up costs related to Medicaid Reform's program design.
- Establishes LME-MCO solvency standards to strengthen the state's mental health system.
- Appropriates \$5 million for the new Broughton Hospital to add 85 beds and create up to 169 staff positions.
- Increases the Child Care Subsidy amount for children from ages birth through five so they have access to most child care centers in the most economically distressed counties. Child care subsidy rates are also increased for children ages 3 to 5 in Tier 3 counties.
- Reduces the Child Care Subsidy Waitlist by providing nearly \$20 million in federal block grant funds to serve an estimated 3,700 additional children.
- Provides an additional \$8.5 million from the Low-Income Energy Assistance block grant to help pay heating bills for the elderly and disabled populations.
- Sets aside \$6 million for the construction of a new TROSA Facility (Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers, Inc.) in the Triad area and \$1.4 million for a facility-based crisis center in Wilkes County.

Ø JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- Funds the changes necessary to "raise the age" in North Carolina, ensuring 16- and 17-year olds suspected of misdemeanor offenses and less serious felonies will be tried as juveniles instead of adults by December 2019.
- Allocates \$15 million for safety and security upgrades in state prisons.
- Provides funding to begin a multi-year project that will create an integrated e-Courts technology system.
- Establishes the "Criminal Justice Fellows" program to provide forgivable loans to aid in the recruitment of future law enforcement officers seeking an associate's degree in Criminal Justice.

Ø TAXES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Sets aside more than \$10 million to provide access to clean drinking water for those impacted by GenX contamination and to fund the state's efforts to address these emerging compounds and their threat to safe drinking water.
- Allocates more than \$22 million for Farmland Preservation, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.
- Provides funding to purchase dredging equipment to ensure valuable economic activity at the North Carolina coast can continue, with a potential economic impact of up to \$500 million in Dare County alone.
- Designates over \$3.5 million in match funding that will leverage an additional \$15 million in federal funding to improve the state's wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.

Ø AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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- Designates over \$3.5 million in match funding that will leverage an additional \$15 million in federal funding to improve the state's wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.

Ø TRANSPORTATION

- Allocates \$135 million for the Strategic Transportation Investments Program (STIP).
- Invests \$50 million to fund immediate need construction projects across the state that improve mobility and safety, reduce congestion and spur economic development.
- Includes \$104 million for a Roadside Environmental Fund dedicated to ensuring the safety and beautification of the state's highways.

At the General Assembly

March for Students and Rally for Respect

On May 16, lawmakers were greeted by thousands of teachers from various school districts across North Carolina as they returned to Raleigh for the start of the 2018 short legislative session. The purpose of the March for Students and Rally for Respect was to bring awareness to insufficient state funding in North Carolina for public schools and to advocate for livable wages for teachers. Governor Roy Cooper has taken steps to address the issues of teacher pay, school safety, and job readiness in the state of North Carolina, through his proposed 2018-19 budget.

Governor Cooper's budget will ensure teachers receive a 5 percent increase in pay, with an average at 8 percent this year, and will put North Carolina on track to reach the national average for teacher pay by the year 2020. North Carolina currently ranks 37th in teacher pay in the nation and is one of the worst states in the amount elected leaders spend per student in our public schools. Governor Cooper's budget will also put North Carolina on track to be a Top Ten Educated state by the year 2025 by adding 2,000 pre-k slots, allocating \$25 million for textbooks and digital learning, and providing teachers a \$150 stipend to cover out-of-pocket expenses for classroom supplies. The Governor's budget will also include \$130 million to hire personnel, such as nurses and school resource officers, to address issues of safety and mental health in our public schools. Job readiness is also addressed by Governor Cooper's budget, which will invest \$30 million in the NC Grow Program to

provide free training at community colleges for high-demand industries, and \$20 million in Finish Line Grants to help students facing financial hardship finish their degree. Additionally, NC Job Ready includes \$10 million, which will assist employers to provide on-the-job training.



I enjoyed speaking with the teachers at the rally. As a former educator, I understand that teachers deserve to be adequately compensated for the important work they do every day. I support the Governor's proposed budget to increase teacher pay, provide resources for school safety, and prepare students for future employment.



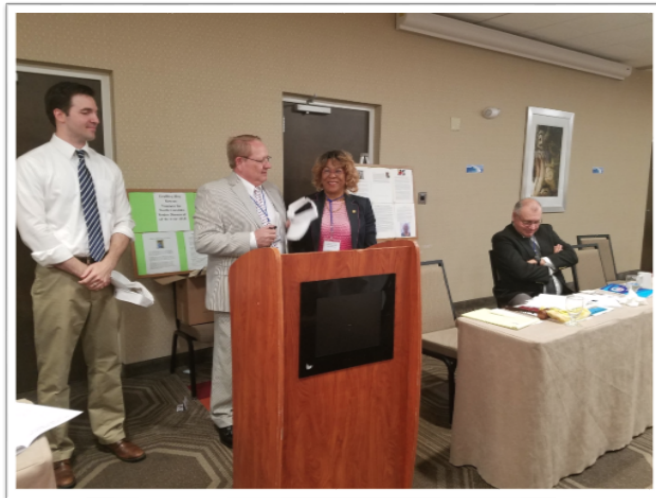
As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Senator Joyce Waddell joins members of Divine Nine on Divine Nine NC Legislative Day.

May 16, 2018



Senator Joyce Waddell presents a Senatorial Certificate honoring the 40th Annual Convention of the North Carolina Senior Democrats.

May 19, 2018



The President of the North Carolina Senior Democrats, Tom Rothrock, presents Senator Joyce Waddell with a gift of appreciation for continued advocacy on legislative issues that affect senior citizens at the North Carolina Senior Democrats' 40th Annual Convention.

May 19, 2018



As a primary co-sponsor of [Senate Bill 210, Living Wage By 2022](#), Senator Joyce Waddell discusses the need to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour at a press conference.

May 22, 2018



Senator Joyce Waddell, along with several Mecklenburg advocates, discuss the need for legislation that would provide funding and research for citizens living with multiple myeloma at a press conference. Multiple myeloma is the second most common form of blood cancer in the United States.

May 23, 2018



At a press conference, Senator Joyce Waddell discusses [Senate Bill 734, Extreme Risk Protection Orders](#), which she co-sponsored.

May 23, 2018



Senator Joyce Waddell leads the Senate in prayer at the start of session.

May 31, 2018

The County News

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Local, State, and National..... **BRIEFS:**

From the desk of Senator Joyce Waddell

Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee's Education Proposals

CHARLOTTE, NC – On May 1, Senator Joyce Waddell joined members of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee to submit their legislative report. The purpose of the Committee is to review educational institutions in North Carolina and make recommendations to the North Carolina General Assembly to improve public education from kindergarten through higher education.

Here is a summary of the Committee's legislative recommendations:


Extend Pilot/Virtual Charter Schools – This legislation would extend the virtual charter school pilot program for four more school years. In 2014, the State Board of Education created a virtual charter school program to serve students in kindergarten through high school. North Carolina Connections Academy and the North Carolina Virtual Academy opened in the 2015-16 school year. Under current legislation, they will close at the end of the 2018-19 school year. Although the student achievement outcomes have not been high, the Committee recommends extending the program to the 2022-23 School Year for a reassessment.

Cross-training DPI Licensure Section Staff – This act would direct the section chief of the licensure section of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to establish a cross-training program for employees of the section to improve timely processing of educator licensure applications. There have been concerns raised over the past years by teachers and local school administrative units about the length of time it takes for DPI to issue educator licenses to applicants.

Medical Education & Residency Study – This legislation would study medical education and medical residency programs in the State. The Joint Subcommittee on Medical Education and Medical Residency Programs submitted a report which provided valuable information on how North Carolina allocates funds to address the short- and long-term health care needs of residents.

Revise Cursive and Multiplication Report – This act would clarify and make permanent the reporting requirement on cursive writing and multiplication tables. A state law was passed in 2013 to ensure that public schools are teaching cursive writing. In last year's state budget, the Department of Public Instruction had to report how school districts were obeying the law. According to the report, 83 percent of elementary schools stated that they taught cursive at least occasionally; 94 percent indicated that they taught multiplication tables weekly. The legislation would require annual reporting to learn which districts are not in compliance with the law.

"I am looking forward to the short legislative session to support legislation that meets the needs of our State," said Senator Joyce Waddell.



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.

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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