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For Immediate Release

Sen. Joyce Waddell [joyce.waddell@ncleg.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2019 4:30 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019

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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
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Bipartisan Bills Pass Through Before the Fourth of July

Charlotte, NC- As the Senate prepared for the 4th of July break, 30 bills came to the floor. Most of these bills affected only specific local communities, but there were a few larger ones, including:

- House Bill 329: Renewable Energy Amends
- Senate Bill 579: Prison Reform Act of 2019
- Senate Bill 681: Rural Health Care Stabilization Act
- House Bill 402: UNC Capital Projects
- House Bill 761: Clarify Wastewater Permitting Liability

House Bill 329: Renewable Energy Amends started out as a controversial bill that would have imposed costly new regulations on the disposal of solar panels; now, however, it simply requires the Environmental Management Commission and Department of Environmental Quality to study the issue and create disposal and recycling regulations by 2022. It passed the Senate with no votes in opposition.

Senate Bill 579: Prison Reform Act of 2019 also passed with widespread bipartisan support. This bill will task the Program Evaluation Division with studying alternative organization and management possibilities for the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.

Senate Bill 681: Rural Health Care Stabilization Act establishes a fund to provide low interest loans to rural hospitals in financial crisis. Senator Waddell supported this bill, as it makes progress on a pressing issue, but she, along with many other members, worried it is too small a fix for the dire situation many hospitals are in. The bill passed with only one no vote.

Senator Waddell has some words for everyone as we take time off for the Fourth of July:

“As we all return home to family and friends, let’s stop a moment to remember what the 4th of July means. Our nation was born out of admirable ideals: that people of every socioeconomic class are equals, that government exists to serve the needs of its citizens, and that every one of us ought to have access to life,

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liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Though the United States has not always lived up to these values, they exemplify its great potential. So when our country, our state, and even our local communities fail to be the best they can be, let's not settle; let's push ourselves to do better. That's the spirit of the first Fourth of July, and that is the spirit we must keep if progress is to continue. I hope everyone has fun with their loved ones and stays safe this weekend!"

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