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October Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell [waddellja@ncleg.net]

Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2019 2:00 PM

To: Steve Johnston

Senator Joyce Waddell

NC Senate


1113 Legislative Building

16 West Jones Street

Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Serving District 40 and

Mecklenburg County



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The Waddell Bulletin

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Dear Friends:

Even though NC legislators are back in session and voting bills out for passage, the entire budget standoff has dragged past 100 days and a resolution is nowhere in sight by the end of this month.

With the refusal to come to a compromise in budget negotiations, the Republications Senate leadership continues to bring forth “mini budgets” one of which passed out of the Senate on October 21, 2019. Senate Bill 61, Community Colleges Budget/2019-2021 Biennium: N.C. Community Colleges would see about \$1.2 billion in operating funds for each year of the biennium under S.B. 61. The bill provides funding for specific community college programs and lowers the required local matching funds for career coaches in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. Pay raises for community college instructors and staff aren’t included in the bill. While the full budget included new capital funds, the mini-budget excluded the provision.

The Senate also voted for SB 578, which is considered a component of the “mini budget” bills. This bill is a corporate tax cut with the changes to the film grant program, Republicans are trying to sink an important economic engine for our state when they should be focused on giving teachers a raise. The film grant program is a critical economic engine for our state supporting tens of thousands of job opportunities and \$165 million in production spending. The film industry has important ripple effects throughout our economy supporting small

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businesses across the state.

Republicans are trying to sink needed changes to that program by combining it with yet another corporate tax cut that will take away money that could be going to give teachers a raise.

The film grant changes in S 557 do not affect the funding for film grants, which is available for this fiscal year as a recurring item in the continuing resolution. A vote against S 557 does not affect the availability of film grant funds. "Somehow the majority must stop bringing forth mini budgets and compromise to bring forth a vote on the entire budget" – said Senator Joyce Waddell.

As always, please reach out to my office, or those of your other representatives, with your requests and concerns. Feedback always helps us to better serve you.

-Senator Joyce Waddell

Session News

Some bills that passed the Senate this month included:

- [HB 100: DOT Budget for 2019-2021 Biennium](#) included in the state budget proposal with two additions - funding for additional assistant district attorneys that were not specifically tied to Raise the Age program implementation funding but that address the personnel shortages facing the juvenile justice system, and annual funding for court counselors. The bill results in \$77 million in total going towards implementation over the next two years. In addition to the court counselors and assistant district attorney funding, the bill will adjust the number of assistant district attorneys as well as district court judges allowed in a number of districts, and appropriate funds to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Office of Indigent Defense Services, and the Department of Public Safety to cover the cost of staff increases, among other implementation resource needs.
- [HB 387: Growing G.R.E.A.T.](#) The mini-budget provides funding for the 10-year Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology grant program. The program provides grants to support rural broadband infrastructure projects. H.B. 387 appropriates \$15 million from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund to the G.R.E.A.T. fund for each fiscal year starting from 2019-20 to 2028-29. The bill also expands the program to Tier 2 counties.
- [SB 559: Storm Securitization/Alt. Rates - S.](#) Senate Bill 5591 does two different things: 1. Part I would permit utility companies to use bond financing for certain storm recovery costs. This financing mechanism would not create any indebtedness for the State or any of its political subdivisions. 2. Part II would authorize the Utilities Commission to fix rates for electric public utilities using "multiyear rate plan" and "banding of authorized returns" mechanisms.
- [HB 399: Extend Tax Credits/Other Finance Changes](#) H.B. 399 contains a laundry list of tax credit extensions, deduction adjustments, and appropriations to the N.C. Department of Revenue. The bill extends the

sunset for the Historic Rehabilitation tax credit, the sales tax exemption for qualifying airlines, the sales tax exemptions for professional motorsports teams, and the Dry Cleaning Solvent program. H.B. 399 expands the Mill Rehabilitation tax credit. The NCDOR would receive \$12.5 million in nonrecurring funds for fiscal 2019-20 for tax system upgrades and maintenance. More than \$4 million in nonrecurring funds would be appropriated to the NCDOR for each fiscal year of the biennium to contract with a vendor to conduct identity theft and tax fraud analysis.

- [HB 1001: Raise the Age Funding](#) H.B. 1001 provides money to implement Raise the Age, a criminal justice reform initiative raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to 18. The mini-budget allocates money to hire more assistant district attorneys and district court judges. Under the mini-budget, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Public Safety, and the Office of Indigent Defense Services would receive money to support implementation.
- [HB 470: Administration of Justice Changes](#) Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed a bill Wednesday that would have forwarded jury excuses to election officials, who would potentially remove from the voting rolls people who got out of jury duty by saying they weren't citizens.
- [SB 572: University System Risk Management Provisions](#) AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES TO OBTAIN LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR ALCOHOL SALES.
- [HB 511: North Carolina First Step Act](#) would call for a change to the NC Constitution that would create an independent citizens redistricting commission to handle future redistricting.
- [SB 61: Community Colleges Budget/2019-2021 Biennium](#) Biennium: N.C. Community Colleges would see about \$1.2 billion in operating funds for each year of the biennium under S.B. 61. The bill provides funding for specific community college programs and lowers the required local matching funds for career coaches in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. Pay raises for community college instructors and staff aren't included in the bill. While the full budget included new capital funds, the mini-budget excluded the provision.
- [SB 557: Various Finance Law Changes](#) - AN ACT TO INCREASE THE STANDARD DEDUCTION, TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF HOLDING COMPANY FOR FRANCHISE TAX PURPOSES, TO IMPLEMENT MARKET-BASED SOURCING FOR MULTISTATE INCOME TAX APPORTIONMENT, TO REQUIRE CERTAIN MARKETPLACE FACILITATORS TO COLLECT SALES TAX, TO DIRECT REVENUE LAWS TO STUDY CERTAIN TAX SUNSET PROVISIONS, AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.
- [SB 578: Reduce Franchise Tax/Expand Film Grants](#) - AN ACT TO REDUCE THE FRANCHISE TAX AND TO MODIFY FILM GRANT LIMITS.
- [SB 579: Prison Reform Act of 2019](#) AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE TO DIRECT THE PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES FOR THE DIVISION OF ADULT CORRECTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY. Governor Roy Cooper signed the Prison Reform Act of 2019 into law on Friday, Nov. 1.
- [SB 315: North Carolina Farm Act of 2019](#) AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE AGRICULTURAL LAWS OF THE STATE. 4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: 5 6 IMPLEMENT A STATE HEMP PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7 10113 OF THE FEDERAL AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018, TO BE 8 ADMINISTERED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA HEMP COMMISSION UNTIL JULY 9 1, 2021
- [SB 683: Combat Absentee Ballot Fraud](#) - AN ACT TO AMEND THE

LAWS GOVERNING MAIL-IN ABSENTEE BALLOTS; TO RESTORE THE LAST SATURDAY OF EARLY ONE-STOP VOTING; TO EXTEND THE TIME BY WHICH COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTION NEED TO REPLACE DIRECT RECORD ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; TO AUTHORIZE A COUNTY TO TEST NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT DURING A SIMULATED ELECTION; AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, CONSISTENT WITH HOUSE BILL 966 OF THE 2019 REGULAR SESSION

- [HB 398: Info. Tech. Budget/2019-2021 Fiscal Biennium](#) AN ACT, CONSISTENT WITH HOUSE BILL 966, 2019 REGULAR SESSION, TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.
- [HB 111: 2019-2021 Base Budgets/Certain Agencies](#) AN ACT TO ENACT A BASE BUDGET FOR CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND INSTITUTIONS FOR THE 2019-2021 FISCAL BIENNIUM.
- [SB 537: Licensing and HHS Amends & Rural Health Stable](#) AN ACT TO EXAMINE AND ESTABLISH A NEW ADULT CARE HOME PAYMENT METHODOLOGY; TO AMEND THE LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS ACT;

TO UPDATE AND REVISE THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ACT;

TO AMEND THE SOCIAL WORKER CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ACT;

TO AMEND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' STATUTES PERTAINING TO MEDICAID, SOCIAL SERVICES REFORM, CHILD SUPPORT, VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROFESSIONALS, ADOPTIONS, CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, JOINT SECURITY FORCES, SECURITY RECORDINGS, NC REACH PROGRAM, TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, AND THE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP;

TO POSTPONE DEPLOYMENT OF NC FAST CASE-MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONALITY FOR CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM/AGING AND ADULT SERVICES' PROGRAM, DEVELOP REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, AND REQUIRE PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION TO STUDY THE ISSUE;

TO IMPLEMENT CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS FOR CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS;

TO MAKE CHANGES TO INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT; AND TO ESTABLISH THE RURAL HEALTH CARE STABILIZATION PROGRAM

You can read all bills, listen to session and committee meetings, and follow the work of the North Carolina General Assembly at www.ncleg.gov

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Are you a college or graduate student hoping to learn about the North Carolina Senate?

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Interns in Senator Waddell's office help research bills, write talking points, draft



communications (like this one!), and more!

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Serving You



Senator Waddell congratulates the UNC Charlotte Homecoming Queen & King at the football game.



Senator Waddell signing joint Senate Legislation serving women's issues.



Mecklenburg County Delegation explains North Carolina legislation to Democratic women at their monthly meeting



Senator Waddell and other legislators listens and visit special programs to help students with special needs.



Members of the Mecklenburg delegation discuss State legislation with members of the local teachers organizations.

I cannot achieve anything without my constituents.

Please reach out with any questions, or feedback you'd like to share. Thank you for your support!
-Senator Joyce Waddell

Senator Joyce Waddell | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

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