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### November Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell [waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2019 2:25 PM

To: Steve Johnston

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**Senator Joyce Waddell**  
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 16 West Jones Street  
 Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

*Serving District 40 and  
 Mecklenburg County*



#### 2019-2020 Committees

- Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Appropriations on Education/Higher Education
- Finance
- Transportation
- Joint Legislative Program
- Evaluation Oversight
- Joint Legislative Education Oversight
- Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy
- Pensions and Retirement and Aging

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Visit my website

## The Waddell Bulletin



Vol 5. Ed.10 November 2019

#### **Dear Friends:**

*This month we celebrated the 101th anniversary of the official end of WWI on November 11, 2019. I want to personally recognize all of our service members, veterans, and their families for their courage and sacrifice. Thank you to all who have made a commitment to serving our country. We honor you!*

*Even though the Senate's decision to approve the House's congressional redistricting map without any changes, both chambers adjourned Friday afternoon and won't return until Jan. 14, 2020 when they can consider conference reports, appointments, redistricting litigation, transportation funding and oversight issues, veto overrides, healthcare legislation and budget matters.*

*The state Supreme Court declined Friday to review new legislative maps drawn as part of a recent redistricting lawsuit, giving North Carolina final maps for next year's General Assembly elections. The plaintiffs in Common Cause v. Lewis asked the high court to get involved after a three-judge panel, which ordered the General Assembly's majority party to redraw gerrymandered maps, signed off on the new maps.*

*The House and Senate each approved a disaster recovery bill Thursday, sending it to Gov. Roy Cooper. House Bill 200, the 2019 Storm Recovery Act, passed 100-1 in the House and 45-0 in the Senate. The bill included about \$121 million in state matching funds, largely for storm recoveries from the last three years; funded the state's individual assistance program for people affected by September's Hurricane Dorian; and included \$59 million for various efforts meant to help*

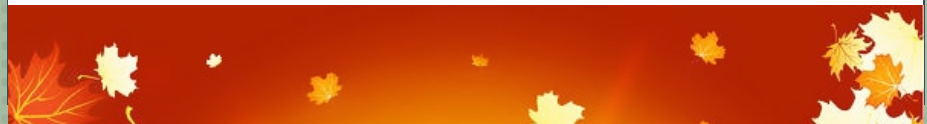
*North Carolina prepare for future storms. The House on Thursday approved a cash-infusion for the state Department of Transportation. After the 101-1 vote, the measure was sent to the Senate, where the vote was unanimous. The bill is meant to get highway projects moving again.*

*Senate Bill 356 also tells the State Auditor's Office to take a close look at DOT spending, and it would limit what the department pays out each year in legal settlements linked to the Map Act. The bill would take \$100 million from the state general fund and transfer it to DOT. It would also authorize an extra \$100 million in Build NC bonds to fund construction projects, boosting the spring bond issue to \$400 million. The measure also forgives a \$90 million loan from the general fund that was approved earlier this year. Some of the transfer money is earmarked for specific projects, including \$2 million to expand a flood mapping project and another \$2 million for a highway "flood risk and vulnerability assessment." The bill creates a new emergency fund to address the explosion in storm cleanup costs DOT has seen in recent years, largely due to hurricanes Matthew and Florence. In addition to the new fund, the bill would have the DOT cut budgets in other departments to gin up funding as needed for snow, ice and other emergency expenses. The measure also authorizes a transfer from the state Highway Trust Fund to the Highway Fund.*

*Lawsuit settlements tied to the Map Act have also put a lot of pressure on the department's budget, and those costs may eventually top \$1 billion. This state law, which has since been repealed, allowed the department to essentially freeze development for years in areas where it planned to build roads, and the policy led to multiple lawsuits and large payouts to property owners. This bill would limit Map Act claim payments to \$150 million a year, except for a carve-out on tolled projects. For Map Act claims filed after Jan. 1, interest would be paid on land values, not compounding interest.*

*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:

- [Senate Bill 356: DOT Cash and Accountability](#) This bill is meant to get highway projects moving again that are dubbed "pretty severe. Senate Bill 356 also tells the State Auditor's Office to take a close look at DOT spending, and it would limit what the department pays out each year in legal settlements linked to the Map Act. The bill would take \$100 million from the state general fund and transfer it to DOT. It would also authorize an extra \$100 million in Build NC bonds to fund construction projects, boosting the spring bond issue to \$400 million. The measure also forgives a \$90 million loan from the general fund that was approved earlier this year.
- [House Bill 200: 2019 Storm Recovery/Var. Budget Corrections](#). House Bill 200 would provide the funding needed for all of the federal matches. In total, the bill allocates \$121,585,594 to the General Fund to be used as a State match for federal disaster assistance programs for Hurricane Florence, Matthew, Michael, and Dorian. The bill would also make up for the funding that was not approved by the federal government for Hurricane Dorian relief using state funds. The bill provides \$15 million for Golden L.E.A.F., \$5 million to the Department of Agriculture for stream debris removal, \$1.7 million as a directed grant to Hyde County for repairs to the Ocracoke School, \$500,000 to the Wildlife Resources Commission to fund two grant programs administered by the Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council, among other appropriations to aid with storm repairs.

- In addition to the storm recovery sections of the bill, the conference report also contained several technical correction provisions needed in large part because of the way the budget process has unfolded over the course of the last several months, approving a series of mini-budget proposals rather than one comprehensive budget bill. HB 200 includes a provision to allocate the \$13,397,000 needed to fund the Rural Health Care Stabilization Fund. The bill to establish the fund has already become law, however it did not include the funding needed to implement the program.
- [SR 702: Senate BOG Vacancy Election](#). This a Senate Resolution Electing Dwight D. Stone To The Board Of Governors Of The University Of North Carolina. This resolution is effective November 22, 2019.

*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](http://www.ncleg.gov)*

## Intern with Senator Waddell



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

**Would you like to gain experience working with legislation and lawmakers?**

Interns in Senator Waddell's office help research bills, write talking points, draft communications (like this one!), and more!

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to [waddelljla@ncleg.net](mailto:waddelljla@ncleg.net)

## Serving You



Senator Waddell speaks at an open form advocating for legislation for a cost of living adjustment for retirees in North Carolina.







Senator Waddell speaks at a press conference in Mecklenburg County advocating for increasing teachers pay & cost of living adjustment for retirees.



Senator Waddell speaks with constituents from Mecklenburg County concerning voter rights and long session legislation.

***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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