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### May 2020 Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell [waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 2:30 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*



#### 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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# The Waddell Bulletin



Vol 5.Ed.5 No.1 May 2020

*Dear Friends:*

*Monday, June 1st marks the beginning of hurricane season and because of social distancing, shelters are being tasked with getting creative to be able to properly assist the community.*

*Charlotte Mecklenburg Library reopens June 1. While you can finally return books that have been lying around your house and pick up items you might have placed on hold, the not-so-good news is that the library experience won't be anything like what you're accustomed to. To limit contact and prevent the spread of the coronavirus, only one person will be allowed into a library branch at a time. You can pick up your items on hold, self-checkout everything, and head out pretty quickly. There will be no lingering or lounging or browsing for new books. Not yet.*

*May has come and gone and COVID-19 is still upon us. With diligence we are continuing to help more North Carolinians understand the importance of hand washing, social distancing, and wearing masks.*

*As state leaders, we are still making slowing the spread of the virus a priority. Behind the scenes here at the General Assembly, we are continuing to look for ways to support our economy that has taken a big hit. Know that we are working hard in that regard.*

***As in the last newsletter, I want to continue to provide helpful information.***

***Here are some resources that may be helpful:***

- ***If you feel sick and think you might have coronavirus, call your primary care doctor. If you don't have a primary care doctor, call the COVID-19 helpline at 1-866-462-3821.***
- ***If you lost your job or had your work hours cut drastically due to COVID-19, consider applying for unemployment benefits.***
- ***If you own a small business that has been harmed by COVID-19, consider applying for a disaster relief loan.***
- ***For more information, visit the websites of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.***

***Help Lines:***

***Text Updates: Text COVID19 to 889211***

***to sign up for statewide updates***

***COVID-19 Updates: 1-888-892-1162***

***Childcare Assistance: 1-888-600-1685***

***General Questions: 1-866-462-3821***

***Report a Scam: 1-877-5NO-SCAM***

***Small Business Help Line:***

***1-800-659-2955***

***2019 Tax Filing Concerns:***

***1-877-252-3052***

## **Session News**

***Legislators continued filing bills for the 2020 short session. Below are the bills Senator Waddell introduced or cosponsored this month:***

***Bills Senator Waddell Introduced this month:***

***S851: One-Time Retiree Supplement/Funds - An act to provide a one-time cost-of-living supplement of five hundred dollars to the retirees of the teachers' and state employees' retirement system, the local governmental employees' retirement system, the consolidated judicial retirement system, and the legislative***

*retirement system and to the beneficiaries of the North Carolina firefighters' and rescue squad workers' pension fund, the North Carolina national guard pension fund, and the register of deeds' supplemental pension fund.*

#### ***Bills From PED Committee***

***S723: PED Study - DPS/Health Services/Funds for FTE*** - An act to appropriate funds to the department of public safety, health services, to fund one full-time social research specialist III to analyze data on inmate health care.

***S724: PED Oversight/EPP Changes*** - An act to make changes to the educator preparation program performance standards and data reporting system.

#### ***Bills Of Interest This Month:***

***S725: PED/Low-Performing School Districts*** - An act to require consideration of early childhood learning in improvement plans for low-performing local school administrative units and to require that comprehensive needs assessments for low-performing local school administrative units include analysis of early childhood learning.

***S728: Funding Assistance for Small-Scale Landlords*** - An act to establish a loan program with the North Carolina housing finance agency to assist certain small-scale landlords due to the COVID-19 emergency.

***S732: Create Medicaid Access to Doula Services*** - An act to provide coverage for Doula services under the North Carolina Medicaid program state plan.

***S779: PPE for Working Inmates and Prison PPE Report*** - An act to require that inmates working in a state prison or for correction enterprises be provided personal protective equipment during the current state of emergency; to direct the department of public safety, division of adult correction and juvenile justice, to report to the joint legislative oversight committee on justice and public safety regarding its distribution of personal protective equipment during the current state of emergency; and to appropriate funds.

***S826: Housing & Utilities Assistance/COVID-19*** - An act to appropriate funds from the coronavirus relief fund under the coronavirus aid, relief, and economic security (cares) act to provide assistance to individuals at risk of losing certain types of housing and provide assistance with housing utilities due to the

**COVID-19 pandemic.**

***S828: Absentee Ballot Equality/2020 Election - An act to provide equal access and treatment for all in submitting absentee ballots for the 2020 general election in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.***

***S834: Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap/Funds - An act to close the Medicaid coverage gap for families and individuals in North Carolina.***

***S835: UNC Pay/Five Percent Increase - An act to appropriate funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to award a five percent legislatively mandated salary increase to employees of the University of North Carolina.***

***S839: PPE & Hazard Pay for Public School Employees - An act to appropriate funds for personal protective equipment and hazard pay for identified public school employees.***

***S840: Allow Clerks to Hear Traffic Cases Virtually - An act to temporarily allow clerks of court to hear minor traffic offenses by virtual hearing due to the coronavirus pandemic.***

***S841: UNCG/Jackson Library Funds - An act to appropriate funds for the renovation and expansion of the Jackson library at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.***

***S850: Ensure Healthy Schools/COVID-19 - An act to require at least one school nurse in every school in a local school administrative unit beginning in the 2020-2021 school year and to appropriate additional funds to meet that requirement.***

***S860: Support Inmate Juvenile Release to Community - An act to direct the department of public safety, division of adult correction and juvenile justice, to develop a plan regarding prison depopulation, a plan regarding future response efforts for an emergency related to the coronavirus disease 2019, and a plan for the implementation of extending the limits of confinement policy; and to appropriate funds.***

###

**Serving You**

*I cannot achieve anything without the support of my constituents.  
Thank you very much for your continued support!*

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

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