For Immediate Release

From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 08, 2021

CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell
(919) 733-5650
Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net
https://joycewaddell4nc.com/

Greetings:

This week at the General Assembly had a few bills that came before the Senate, mostly regarding redistricting. Upon completion of redistricting, it has been determined that over half of my precincts had changed. If you are interested in seeing the maps that were created, please go to www.ncleg.gov to see the newly drawn districts.

Joyce Waddell

Highlighted Bill

HOUSE BILL 814: Neighborhood Occupantless Vehicle

House Bill 814 defines a "neighborhood occupantless vehicle" as a specific type of fully autonomous vehicle that is low-speed and designed to transport cargo without an occupant. The bill would authorize a neighborhood occupantless vehicle to operate on highways subject to the following:

➢ Operating limitations. It would only be allowed on streets with speed limits of 45 mph or less, it would have to stay in the right lane or as far to the right as practicable, and it would have to pull over and allow faster vehicles to pass on a two lane highway when passing is unsafe and there are five or more vehicles immediately behind it.

➢ Equipment exemptions. It would not be subject to vehicle equipment requirements for equipment that supports a human driver but is not necessary for a vehicle operated exclusively by an automated driving system.

A better explanation of a fully autonomous vehicle and the rules of usage are as follows: A fully autonomous vehicle is a motor vehicle equipped with an automated driving system that will not at any time require an occupant to perform any portion of the dynamic driving task when the system is engaged. The bill addresses issues arising from not having a human operator occupying the vehicle with provisions such as not requiring a drivers license to operate the vehicle, making the registered owner of the vehicle responsible for moving violations, providing exemptions from unattended vehicle prohibitions, and requiring the vehicle to comply with certain requirements if involved in a crash.

This bill passed out of the Senate unanimously.

Time with Senator Waddell

Sen Waddell delivers session prayer and recognizes

Senator Waddell discusses education pay increases and how a bill becomes law with Campbell University Students

Redistricting Process

North Carolina Republicans on Wednesday neared final passage of their congressional and legislative redistricting for the next decade, dismissing Democratic arguments that the boundaries are unlawful as overly partisan toward the GOP and wrongly ignore race. The courthouse soon will be the only place that map opponents can seek redress.

On a party-line vote, Senator Waddell along with fellow Democrats voted no and Republicans voted yes. The full Senate voted for a GOP-drawn map for its 50 districts. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's veto does not have the authority to veto redistricting maps, however several groups have filed several lawsuits.

Mecklenburg Districts

Sen. Natasha Marcus, D-Mecklenburg, is double-bunked with Sen. Vickie Saywer, R-Iredell, in a Republican-leaning district in the new Senate maps approved Wednesday.

Senate Democrats did submit two amendments to the Iredell-Mecklenburg maps during Wednesday's floor session — one that un-bunked Marcus and one that left her double-bunked with Sawyer, though both changed the southeastern district. Both were rejected swiftly by Republicans.

###

Try email marketing for free today!