

**\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\* For Immediate Release**

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Greetings:

*Last week at the General Assembly, we voted on several bills. As we adjourned on Thursday, it was determined that the next voting session will be on Tuesday.*

*Joyce Waddell*

## Gambling Revenue

North Carolina should not count on a tax revenue windfall from online sports gambling. If online sports betting is legalized, it could bring the state more than \$20 million per year, according to projections from the state legislature's fiscal research division. That figure will rise if the proposed legislation raises the tax rate, as some have indicated they might.

North Carolina would join about half of the states in legalizing online sports gambling — and the states have adopted a variety of fees,

taxation rates, income calculations and regulations on the burgeoning industry. The current Senate Bill 688, includes lower fees and tax rates than sports gambling operators pay in many states.

Having an operator-friendly law could mean larger bonuses, bigger promotional credits and, perhaps, better odds for gamblers. The bill passed a divided Senate last year. The Governor has been supportive of sports gambling legislation.

The legislation would allow for up to 12 online sports wagering operators to be licensed in the state. Each five-year license costs \$500,000 and can be renewed. I was very concerned about the small number of wagering operators to be licensed and I spoke in the committee meeting about transparency as the bill moves forward. Operators would pay an 8% tax on adjusted gross revenue – defined in the bill as gross wagering revenue minus cash or cash equivalents paid out as winnings, cash value of any bonus or promotional credits, uncollectible receivables (up to 4%) and excise payments on sports wagers paid to the federal government. The fiscal note projects between \$8 million and \$24 million in tax collection in the first full fiscal year of legalized online sports gambling with between \$3 million to \$11 million going to the general fund, which is used to pay for public education, healthcare and public safety among other priorities.

## ***Advocacy Day***

*Many organizations have a day of advocacy, where they come to chat with legislators about upcoming legislation opportunities.*



*Senator Waddell discusses Medicaid increases and how it will support in-home nursing organizations.*

*Senator Waddell discusses the apartment industry and how the demand for housing has increased with members of the*

## *Apartment Association.*

### **Formula Shortage**

North Carolina is making it easier for people who receive nutrition benefits to buy different types of baby formula. North Carolina contracts with Gerber to provide formula for participants in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. Before the nationwide shortage, WIC recipients were restricted to certain types and sizes. The state Department of Health and Human Services is waiving those limits. The agency says it's also working to buy formula in bulk and it is asking the federal government to ease other restrictions on the kinds of formula available to WIC beneficiaries.

### **Legislative Receptions**



*Senator Waddell is pictured with colleagues during the legislative reception thanking the legislators for their hard work.*



*Senator Waddell is pictured with a colleague and multiple sheriffs across North Carolina at the Legislative reception sponsored by the Association of Executives of NC.*

### **Medical Debt**

If you are unable to rent an apartment or get a job because of a medical bill you had trouble paying? It is all because it is affected your credit score. More and more people are sharing a similar struggle. The NC State Treasurer believes that we can solve this issue by not allowing credit rating agencies to use health care billing to affect your credit. A proposed act might be a weapon to combat the problem. The proposed Medical Debt De-Weaponization Act would prohibit credit

reporting of unpaid debts within one year after a patient is billed. Lower credit scores impact applications for mortgages, car loans, apartment rentals, cell phone plans and utilities. Some employers are now also running credit checks on potential new hires.

The proposed bill is H.B. 1039, and has its first committee hearing on June 7. I will be speaking in Rules Committee concerning these issues.

## Celebration of Juneteenth 2022

*Senator Waddell celebrates Juneteenth by reading a Senatorial Statement on the Senate floor.*



## What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth National Independence Day is now a US federal holiday. It was signed into law by President Joe Biden on Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Many states officially recognize Juneteenth and have an official observance of the day, and most states hold celebrations. Officially known as Emancipation Day and also called Juneteenth Independence Day and Freedom Day, Juneteenth is a combination word for June and nineteenth and commemorates the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas and the emancipation of African American slaves throughout the Confederate South.

*Sources*

*National Juneteenth Observance Foundation*

Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Many of her precincts have changed which makes the election much more competitive. In November she will have an opponent running against her. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

**[CLICK HERE TO](#)**

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*Summer is around the corner and there are many activities being planned that we can safely attend. Please exercise safety during your Juneteenth celebrations.*

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