

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - April 26, 2009

By Representative Bill Faison

This past week I met with the Orange County Commissioners to review their legislative agenda. I also met with people from our District to discuss their concerns.

How to Deal with Dog and Cat Overpopulation: People love their pets. Not only do they care about the welfare of their pets but also about the welfare of dogs and cats coming into animal shelters. There are a lot more dogs and cats than there are families to take them. Many are put to death. There is a big issue going in the Agriculture Committee over how this can be done in the most humane way. Some counties use gas chambers, some use lethal injections and some use both. Each method has its supporters and detractors. Both groups are convinced they are right and the other wrong. There are bills for each side. This week a compromise bill that would have given each side some of what they want failed to get a favorable report when it tied 9 to 9 in the committee.

Promoting Job Creation: Through the Department of Commerce the State has a number of programs to encourage and promote job creations. One of these is known as JDIG (Job Development Investment Grant Program). This very beneficial program was set to end next year. I sponsored legislation to extend the program for another six years.

Mortgages: A home purchase is the largest purchase most people will ever make. A mortgage loan is a necessary part of buying a home. We are now having more foreclosures than at any time in memory. We need to protect people as best we can when they take out a mortgage. One way to do that is to be sure that the loan originators meet certain minimum requirements and are licensed. I sponsored a bill to bring North Carolina's licensing program up to snuff to meet the requirements of the Federal Housing Recovery Act.

Protecting You From Criminals: Believe it or not, some criminals serving active jail time for felonies try to change their identity while still in jail. They seek to change their name from jail. This is not a good idea. I sponsored a bill requiring that any such request get denied.

Racial Justice: It is important that the death penalty be fairly administered. Race alone should never enter into decisions about the death penalty. I sponsored a bill intended to prevent any person from being given a death sentence or being executed on the basis of race. The bill got a favorable report from my Ways and Means Committee and has gone to a Judiciary Committee.

See the Bills and Contact Me: You can see the bills discussed here by going to www.ncleg.net and using the “Find Bills by Number” tool. The bills are H27, H1523, H1531 and H472. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.