

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - February 8, 2009

By Representative Bill Faison

The House Committees will be appointed this week. Next week I will tell you where I will be serving. New proposed laws are being introduced daily.

Education: The Budget needs to be cut but the State should honor its obligations. Teachers and others earned ABC bonuses in 2007-2008 which have not yet been paid. Somehow in the new Budget we need to be sure people get paid for what they have already earned. I sponsored legislation requiring the State to honor its ABC obligations.

Our students need to be safe at school. Science laboratories contain chemicals and gases that could cause harm. I have sponsored a new bill requiring certification to the State School Board that all high school science laboratories are equipped with appropriate protective equipment for the safety of students and teachers.

Beginning in 2001 we allowed gifted and talented students under 16 years old to attend community college classes. We have two really fine community colleges in our district, Piedmont Community College in Yanceyville and Durham Technical Community College in Hillsborough. It is good that some of our high school students can take advantage of our community colleges. The law that permits this expired in September of 2008. I have sponsored legislation reenacting this law effective March of 2009.

Honoring the NAACP, Martin Luther King and President Obama: Both the House and the Senate will take special notice of special events through Resolutions that are read in solemn form on the floor and voted upon by the members. The NAACP has been a force for positive change in America for 100 years. Many dedicated folks are involved in the work of the NAACP in both Caswell and Orange Counties. I sponsored a resolution honoring the NAACP on its 100th birthday.

Dr. Martin Luther King was a great leader and orator whose vision, shared by so many others, has transformed America into a better place. Dr. King

would have celebrated his 80th birthday on January 15, 2009. President Obama took the oath of office as America's 44th president on the day following national recognition of Dr. King and all for which he stood. I sponsored a resolution recognizing Dr. King's 80th birthday and congratulating President Obama on his election.

Protecting Your Family and Your Property: It is difficult to get a driver's license in our State, and impossible for an illegal alien to lawfully obtain a driver's license. Folks without driver's licenses may still drive illegally, but seldom carry insurance. If you are in a wreck with an unlicensed driver who does not have insurance then your loss will be on your policy. If your uninsured and under insured limits are not enough then you are out of luck. I introduced two bills trying to get you more coverage to protect your family and you.

Contact Me: I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at billf@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.