

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - June 13, 2010

By Representative Bill Faison

The House Budget is now in Conference where negotiators for the House and Senate are trying to work out the differences. Whatever the resolution, it will be more than three quarters of a billion dollars less than last year. The House continues considering new bills. I spend a lot of time talking with folks to help me decide how to vote. In the last week I met with folks from our District who are Realtors and home builders. I attended Cedar Ridge's High School graduation and the Leasburg Ruritan Fish Fry. Folks share with me their views of how government should be run and changes that should be made. All of which is really helpful.

911 First Provider Radios: When you make a 911 call you expect someone to come help you. Many 911 calls are about medical emergencies. Others are about threats to your safety. Every phone bill carries a 70 cent charge to support 911 services. The statute that created 911 funding limited use of the money to inside the 911 building. Over the last few years more money has been collected than has been spent. Not long ago a Governor took approximately \$55 million from the fund to balance the State Budget. I have been working to expand the use of these funds to first provider radios. First providers are Volunteer Firemen, EMS, and sheriff's deputies who are the first to arrive at your side to help. It does not do us a lot of good to have the very best equipment inside the 911 building that will not adequately communicate with first provider radios. The telephone companies and some of the organizations representing 911 office workers resist. I am working for us.

Jobs: Creating new jobs is necessary. The worldwide economic crisis has hit us hard at home. It has resulted in very high unemployment across our State. We need to do what we can to create new jobs. One way to do this is to encourage folks to invest in new projects that will hire folks. Tax breaks for projects that will lead to new jobs is one way to encourage folks to invest. I voted for and the house passed a bill to extend the mill rehabilitation tax credit.

Adult Day Care: Adult Day Cares have come about to provide a safe and interesting place for our older adults to spend part of their day. Our older folks need to be safe. I voted for and the House passed a bill directing Health and Human Services to look at how to handle criminal records checks for day care workers.

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 H1829, H1691 and H1703. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.