

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - June 20, 2010

By Representative Bill Faison

The House continues considering new bills. I am spending a lot of time talking with folks in our District. I need to know what folks want and what they think to help me decide how to vote. This past week I attended Hog Day and the Anathoth Community Fish Fry. In addition I attended The Masonic Grand Lodge reception for both Blue Lodges and Prince Hall Lodges. Moreover, I set up and attended a meeting between a business manager for a home health agency in our District and the Chair of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee responsible for the healthcare budget to discuss the needs of folks in our District. I also met with and then addressed a gathering of city officials participating in the League of Municipalities Legislative Day about high speed broadband services and my efforts to get more and better service in our District.

911 First Provider Radios: I continue trying to get us help paying for first provider radios. Both Sheriffs and both Volunteer Fire Chiefs in our District have asked for help paying for up-to-date radios so they can provide the very best prompt care to folks in need of help. The 911 fund for Caswell County has \$562,422 and for Orange \$940,620. The existing law does not allow any of the funds to be spent on first provider radios. I voted for and we passed out of the Finance Committee a recommendation to the House to pass a bill allowing up to half of the funds in each account be spent on first provider radios over the next two years.

Jobs: This economy has been tough on everyone. It has caused a lot of folks, through no fault of their own, to lose vital jobs. I have been working on both keeping and creating jobs. This week I voted for and the House passed a bill to extend tax credits for growing businesses. The bill promotes both production companies and datacenters among other businesses. It also increases the number of industries eligible for sales tax refunds on building materials for major industrial facilities. All of this is intended to cause businesses to expand and hire.

Internet Cafes: Internet Cafes focus on providing access to sweepstake games. Some folks oppose this as a form of gambling. Other folks say it is

no different than a sweepstake done by Coca Cola or McDonalds. Others say we should regulate and tax the business, and use the money for education. Even the Internet Café businesses are running adds saying they should be regulated and taxed. The Legislature may take this up in the next few weeks.

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 H1691, and H1973. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.