

# Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - March 22, 2009

By Representative Bill Faison

This past week I met with the Yanceyville's Mayor, a Town Councilman, and the Town Manager in Raleigh. I also attended the Caswell County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet.

**Health:** The folks in our District are very involved in Cancer prevention and treatment. Through Relay for Life, folks in our communities raise a lot of money to help solve one of the most serious and dangerous health risk we all face. To help with the fight for life and against cancer I sponsored a bill to allow anyone due a State tax refund to contribute as much of it as they like to the early detection of breast cancer through the Cancer Prevention and Control Branch of the Department of Health and Human Services, by making an entry on their tax return.

Being able to hear well can clearly impact a child's ability to learn. It is important that children with hearing problems are diagnosed and treated. Fortunately most childhood hearing problems can be treated with readily available hearing aids. Unfortunately, not all health insurance plans pay for hearing aids, no matter how badly needed. I sponsored a bill requiring all health insurance plans to pay for hearing aids for children and young adults under 22 years of age and to pay to replace the hearing aids every 36 months.

All State agencies are accountable to you for how they spend your tax dollars. I sponsored a bill requiring public disclosure and public hearings before a Local Management Entity for mental health and developmental disabilities can change funding for disabilities or reduce funding for group homes or apartments. The community as well as the people affected and their families deserve a chance to know what is going on and have input.

**Economic Development:** At one time there were a lot of textile mills in our district. A few skilled entrepreneurs in Caswell and Orange continue to operate. But we have a number of old textile mills that could be renovated to provide jobs and locations for other businesses. I sponsored a bill to expand

the existing mill rehabilitation tax credit to encourage more folks to invest in our old mills, and hopefully provide jobs in the process.

**Helping Disabled Veterans:** The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have left a lot of proud American soldiers disabled. Land mines, rocket launched grenades, and gunfire have left many a soldier unable to work, or if able to work, limited by their war injury. We need to help. I sponsored a bill to give disabled vets property tax relief up to \$65,000 of appraised value of their residence.

**See the Bills and Contact Me:** You can see the bills discussed here by going to [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net) and using the “Find Bills by Number” tool. The bills are H611, H589, H672, H592, and H594. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at [billf@ncleg.net](mailto:billf@ncleg.net) to share your thoughts.