

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature – March 27, 2011

By Representative Bill Faison

The Legislature continues voting on new legislation while committees have hearings on new bills. 13 new laws, law changes or resolutions were passed last week. In addition, 62 new bills and resolutions were introduced, and of those I sponsored 4.

Keeping Our Kids Fit: Obesity is a national problem that affects kids as well as adults. Too many schools have eliminated recess and physical education. Many kids need the physical activity for basic health and to burn off enough energy to concentrate on school work. Moreover, physical exercise is needed to help avoid obesity. Too many of our kids are overweight. Excess body weight can lead to many health problems including diabetes which can lead to loss of vision, sensation and limbs, as well as silent heart attacks. In an effort to focus on keeping our kids fit I voted for a bill requiring the State Board of Education to report to the Legislature each year on the fitness testing of children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

All Terrain Vehicles: The House modified the law requiring helmets and goggles for all terrain vehicles. Both are still required for anyone under 18 all the time, and for anyone 18 and older when riding on public streets and roads. However, if the new bill becomes law, then anyone 18 and older riding on private property would no longer be required to wear a helmet or goggles.

High Speed Internet: I have been working to get us better internet service. Time/Warner Cable, a National company that is run from New York City, is working to keep North Carolina cities and towns from providing internet and cable services to their citizens. Where a city or town does not provide the service, Time/Warner's basic charge for 100 channel service is \$49/mo. In Wilson where the city provides competition, the charge for the same service is \$29/mo. The Repubs are leading the charge for Time/Warner to exclude additional cities and towns from entering the market. This costs folks lots more money. Choosing big business over people makes no sense to me.

New Laws Trying to Help You: I sponsored a bill allowing you to purchase insurance to protect your salary. Job loss is scary. Insurance to protect your income could really come in handy. Keeping down healthcare costs is important. I sponsored a bill expanding Pharmacists' ability to give

vaccines, immunizations, and healthcare information. They can provide these services just as good as a doctor and charge a lot less. Finally, I sponsored a bill requiring special labeling for genetically modified food. You need this information to protect your family.

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 H334, H407, H129, H453, H444 and H446. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.