

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - March 29, 2009

By Representative Bill Faison

This past week I met with constituents from Hillsborough who came to Raleigh. I also attended the Caswell County Volunteer Firemen's Annual Banquet. Deserving firemen were honored for their service to the community. It was my honor to be speaker for the event.

Education: Certified teachers have received supplements for years. However, certified teachers in high school automotive programs have been passed over. This does not seem right. I sponsored a new bill to pay the teachers' supplement to full time high school instructors certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF).

We use tax dollars to pay for schools and school services. It really does not make any sense that a school be required to pay sales and use tax. I sponsored a bill to re-enact the sales tax exemption for schools and school services.

Law Enforcement: Our law enforcement officers do a very dangerous job. Sometimes they get hurt. They and their families need and deserve their disability benefits. I sponsored a bill removing the requirement of one year of creditable service in order to qualify for disability retirement benefits.

Some glass tubes are used with illegal drugs. I sponsored a bill requiring certain glass tubes be sold only from behind the counter and requiring identification information be obtained and maintained on anyone buying such a tube.

Military Benefits: National Guard members in our community have been called on for greater and greater sacrifices. We need to do what we can to help them. I sponsored a bill to give Guardsmen free community college tuition for courses that are required for the performance of their duties.

Healthcare: There are folks in our community who have serious health problems that make them more vulnerable to injury in the event of a disaster like a hurricane or a tornado. I sponsored a bill to create a voluntary registry

of medically fragile folks who would be in need of special help in the event of a disaster. The bill passed the house and has gone to the Senate for action.

Farmers: This economy is hurting everyone. It is not just homeowners who have mortgage foreclosure and bankruptcy problems. Some farmers are facing the same challenges. I sponsored a bill to expand the North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program to assist the agricultural community in dealing with the Department of Agriculture, DNER, and any other state agency.

Economic Recovery: Speaker Hackney has established a Select Committee on Economic Recovery. I have been appointed to serve on this committee because I Chair Ways & Means// Broadband Connectivity, one of the committees that impacts economic recovery.

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 H793, H711, H697, H722, H795, H382 and H791. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at billf@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.