

# Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - March 8, 2009

By Representative Bill Faison

Many new bills continue to be introduced. If a bill is to be considered by the House it must be introduced by a date certain. The date is different for local bills (April 1), public bills (April 8) and money bills (May 6). Moreover, if a bill filed in either the House or the Senate is to be considered by the other (have a chance of becoming law) then it must pass the body where introduced by the "Cross Over Deadline" (May 14). If you have a problem you want addressed by legislation, please get with me before the bill filing deadline.

**Education:** We are in a really bad economic time. Some folks have lost their jobs. Other folks are worried things could get worse and they might lose their jobs. In these tough times community colleges play a very important role helping retrain folks for different and better jobs. Many of those jobs involve technology. It is important for community colleges to have up to date equipment. I sponsored a bill to fund updating and replacing community college technology and equipment.

All children need a good meal at school. This is especially true of children in elementary school. This week I sponsored a bill to provide funds to our local school boards for reimbursable meals provided to elementary school children that comply with the State School Board's nutrition standards.

We run our schools through taxes. We spend over half of the money raised through State income taxes on schools. It does not make any sense that schools should have to pay sales tax. This week I sponsored a bill to reenact the sales and use tax refund for local school units.

**Health:** Teenagers have enough challenges without taking on the challenges of parenthood. This week I sponsored a bill to fund the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina.

We have a real problem in our State providing adequate affordable health care to all. Sometimes the way to deal with such a really big problem is to chip away at it a piece at a time. This week I sponsored a bill to fund school-

based and school-linked adolescent health centers. Providing health care to teenagers can avoid more expensive health care later in life.

**Helping Needy Families:** There are folks among us in desperate need of help. Down turns in the economy have left folks without the ability to provide for basic needs. One of the most basic needs is food. This week I sponsored a bill to fund the six food banks across the State as a way of helping folks.

**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 H420, H387, H386, H328, H354 and H389. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at [billf@ncleg.net](mailto:billf@ncleg.net) to share your thoughts.