

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - May 31, 2010

By Representative Bill Faison

The House Budget will be presented and considered this week. It is very important for me to know what folks in our District think about the Budget and other issues. I spend a lot of time talking with folks. In the last week I attended a Public hearing on the Senate Budget, Bartlett Yancey FFA Banquet, Hillsborough Chamber Business Afterhours, Hillsborough Last Friday Celebration, Mt. Bright Missionary Baptist Church, and Yanceyville Memorial Day Veterans Celebration. This week I will have 'town hall' meetings at the Old Courthouse in Hillsborough, Tuesday 7 p.m., and Yanceyville Town Hall, Thursday 7 p.m. I hope you will be able to join us.

Veterans: This week we celebrated Veterans Day acknowledging and honoring the sacrifices of our Veterans. The Legislature passed a Joint Resolution honoring our Vets. Additionally, I sponsored a bill creating a special license plate for Vets earning the Silver Star and becoming disabled as a result of military service.

Jobs: We need to help folks find jobs. This means both removing barriers and creating jobs. Sometimes the barrier is education. To help remove this barrier I sponsored a bill to fund the growth in Community College enrollment.

Another barrier can be affordable child care. In an effort to help solve this problem I sponsored a bill increasing the Child Care Expenses Tax Credit.

Most jobs are created by small businesses. When we promote small business start-ups we are promoting job creation. I sponsored a bill to give small business start-ups tax relief as a way of helping them get started so we can have more jobs.

Education: We need to find practical common sense ways to improve education while cutting wasteful spending. One option is to cut out unnecessary standardized tests. To help save money while protecting the quality of education, I sponsored a bill to eliminate statewide standardized

testing except as required by Federal Law or as a condition of a Federal Grant.

A Green Environment: We need to protect our environment. Damage to our natural resources can lead to job losses and hurt our efforts to bring back the economy. The oil spill in the Gulf could hurt our tourist and fishing jobs. Big oil companies make huge profits. They should be fully responsible for the harm they do to the rest of us. I sponsored a bill removing the damage cap on off shore oil spills.

Crimes: Tough times can lead to more crime. In an effort to help protect you and your property I sponsored a bill to increase the penalty for stealing a car to strip out its parts.

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 H1390, H1972, H1939, H1957, H2001, H1971, and H2027. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.