

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - May 31, 2009

By Representative Bill Faison

This week I worked on Senate bills in House committees. I also presented bills I had shepherded through the House to Senate committees. Once a Senate bill receives a favorable report from House committees it moves to the floor for action. Some of those bills are discussed below:

New Jobs: Our State's Commerce Department does a good job recruiting new businesses to the State. They have managed to recruit Apple and 1,000 good paying jobs. A condition of Apple coming is the State foregoing taxing Apple's income. To make this deal the State requires Apple to invest at least \$1 billion of private capital in the State over nine years, to continue the jobs, and provide health insurance. We need more and better jobs. This deal not only brings jobs for those who will work for Apple but also brings jobs for folks in the construction, trucking, warehousing, and supply businesses, to name just a few. To make this deal happen, I voted for and the House passed a bill that had already passed the Senate.

Honoring Our Military Veterans: This week we passed a resolution honoring the fallen soldiers who served in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Families of some of our North Carolina soldiers were in the gallery and honored by the Legislature for the ultimate sacrifice of their loved ones.

Environment: We need to reduce energy consumption. The less energy we consume the less coal we burn, and the less CO₂ and ash we dump into the atmosphere. Moreover, the less we consume the more money we save. This week we passed a Senate bill authorizing cities and counties to give incentives to developers to construct or remodel in such a way as to make a significant contribution to the reduction of energy consumption.

Racial Justice: The NAACP had introduced in the House and the Senate a bill which I sponsored in the House seeking racial justice. The new law is intended to ensure that race does not play a factor in the death penalty. The House bill passed out of my Ways & Means Committee but was not heard on the floor because the Senate bill passed first. However, the Senate bill

had some provisions added that take away the focus of the bill. The Senate bill is now in my Ways & Means Committee. We will hear it this Wednesday at 1 p.m. Hopefully we will modify the bill to be more like the House bill that came out of my committee and move it on to the floor. Race should never play a part in the death penalty.

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 S575, H1652, S52 and S461. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.