



Representative Ric Killian

North Carolina
General Assembly

2010 Session; Number 2
July 15, 2010

2010 Short Session

The 2010 North Carolina General Assembly ended at 0530 July 10th, without making substantial policy or budgetary changes. The expansion budget for the year is \$18.9B; and only few policy issues made it through the legislative gauntlet during this 2010 short session.

Budget -

The session began with the Governors proposed budget, quickly followed by the Senate version, and House version; all to be reconciled amongst Democrat leaders in the Conference Committee. For the first time since 2003, North Carolina had a budget by the end of the fiscal year (June 30)—which is how it should be every year. Although the budget began to decrease overall expenditures, the process by which it was created remained a one sided political endeavor that unfortunately failed to address the looming shortfall of at least \$3B facing the next legislature in just six months.

Austerity Now!

Although the domestic economy shows signs of improvement, the world remains in a debt crisis that is inhibiting economic recovery. Growth in government programs and entitlements over the past several decades has led to significantly increased spending. Maintaining this level of spending required governments to take on increased debt. Governments across the world, including the United States, now realize their debt threatens their very existence, at all levels of government.

There are three solutions to the debt crisis: **bailout, default, and austerity**. The bailout is a short term solution that rein-

Bills -

House rules focus major legislation in the long session and minimize it in the short session. However, there were a few significant reforms addressed including ethics, Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC), internet sweepstakes, and a few others.

I supported Ethics Reform and ABC Reform, although they were little more than an attempt to show concern, and I predict will do little to change the system. Significant reform in these areas is needed.

I am proud to claim that I am the primary sponsor of five bills that became law, two of which I personally carried through the lawmaking process.

Summary -

The 2010 short session was primarily a non event, intended to do as little as possible—and it achieved that goal. I look forward to the next term where I hope public support for more austere policy making will prevail.

forces bad behavior and fails to correct the problem of spending. Default is an option that requires collapsing the economic system, and is not politically feasible. The solution to the current debt crisis is for governments at all level to focus on providing basis services, and stop trying to be all things to all people; and ultimately eliminate unsustainable programs.

North Carolina's revenues are decreasing, the emergency fund is nearly empty, and we are near our debt capacity. The only solution is to reverse the trend of increased government—and it must begin now!



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Links:

Personal Website:

- www.rickillian.com

General Assembly Website:

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascrpts/members/viewMember.pl?>



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Ric's Record

2009-2010 Session

Total Votes—1830
Actual Votes Cast—1685
Bills Sponsored—120
Primary Sponsored—29
New Laws—5

Members of the **North Carolina General Assembly** are elected for **two year terms**, in the fall election of even numbered years. The **long session** begins in January of odd numbered years, and has no end date. The 2009-2010 session ended at 0530 Saturday, July 10th.

During session, each week begins with a floor debate on Monday evening, and ends on Thursday afternoon. Members travel to Raleigh on Monday, and return home on Thursday evening. Occasionally, the General Assembly will convene on the weekend.

Members receive an annual salary of \$13,951, plus a \$559 monthly expense allowance, and a per diem allowance of \$104 per day of session to cover living expenses in Raleigh.

Constituent Services Summary - (2009/10)

1/1/09—7/10/10:

Office Visits — 55
Letters — 629
Telephone Calls — 454
E-Mails — 2861

Jan Copeland is my Legislative Assistant, and only staff member. Her primary roles include constituent services, inter-office communication and scheduling. Jan coordinates with state agencies and research staff on behalf of constituents, and is in constant communication with me regarding constituent issues. She also provides support to the Homeland Security Caucus, and provides assistance preparing and moving legislation through the House and the Senate. Jan's role is especially critical between the long and short session when House members are not in Raleigh.

Looking Ahead to the 2011/12 Term

I am already working on a legislative agenda for the next term. I will continue to focus on **Transportation** and **Homeland Security** issues.

My first priority remains seeking the expansion of the southern section of I-485. Due to the political nature of transportation funding in North Carolina this remains an elusive goal; but I will persist. For this reason, I will continue to pursue a transportation funding reform agenda that includes the elimination of Board of Advisors, the Highway Fund, the Highway Trust Fund, and the new Mobility Fund; and the adoption of a standardized set of criteria to evaluate transportation projects for funding priority, and the elimination of the Equity Formula.

US Army War College

In addition to serving in Iraq, in 2009 Ric was selected to attend the **U.S. Army War College** (Distance Education).

In June, Ric completed the **First Residence Course at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.**

Upon completion in 2011, Ric will receive a **Master of Strategic Studies degree.**