



Representative William Brisson
 Legislative Newsletter
 House District 22
 Bladen, Johnston, and Sampson Counties



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Class Size Solution

Last week, The North Carolina House of Representatives approved [House Bill 90 NC Truth in Education](#) with a bipartisan vote of 104-12. This bill reallocates nearly \$58 million to local school districts in Eastern North Carolina located along the path of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The controversial \$58 million fund was negotiated by Governor Roy Cooper with energy companies building the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. House Bill 90 takes this questionable “slush fund” and reallocates it to education, following precedent set by previous State Supreme Court cases concerning similar “slush funds.”

This legislation phases in smaller class sizes and lower student-to-teacher ratios in kindergarten through third grade classrooms, and provides millions of additional state dollars to fund special subject area teachers and eliminate the state’s Pre-K waiting list, adding close to 3,000 slots for low income children to the program. School systems across the state will continue to receive about \$70 million annually to cover the additional K-3 teachers needed to meet the class size requirements. But schools will only be required to gradually lower their student-to-teacher ratios until the 2021-2022 school year, as follows:

	FY 2017-18		FY 2018-19		FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21		FY 2021-22	
	Teacher Allotment	Class Size Avg.								
K	1:18	1:20	1:18	1:20	1:18	1:19	1:18	1:18	1:18	1:18
1	1:16	1:20	1:16	1:20	1:16	1:19	1:16	1:18	1:16	1:16
2	1:17	1:20	1:17	1:20	1:17	1:19	1:17	1:18	1:17	1:17
3	1:17	1:20	1:17	1:20	1:17	1:19	1:17	1:18	1:17	1:17

Distribution of the fund is calculated based upon the number of students in each district and the miles of pipeline that will run through the district. As illustrated in the chart below, our District will directly benefit from House Bill 90. Based on the two-step formula, Sampson County Schools will receive \$2,416,321, Clinton City Schools will receive \$875,403, and Johnston County Schools will receive \$11,998,658. This funding will provide the necessary appropriations to phase in class size reductions -with no change to the status quo in the first year- giving school administrators ample time to plan and take the necessary steps to meet those requirements.

Pipeline Counties	Allocation based on ADM			Allocation based on Pipeline Mileage			Total
	FY 2017-18 Allotted ADM	% of Total ADM	Amount	Pipeline Miles	% of Total	Amount	
Cumberland	50,485	32.4%	\$ 9,365,097	39 miles	19.9%	\$ 5,750,510	\$15,115,607
Halifax	2,593	1.7%	\$ 481,008	24 miles	12.2%	\$ 1,439,831	\$ 1,920,839
Roanoke Rapids	2,912	1.9%	\$ 540,183			\$ 1,616,964	\$ 2,157,148
Weldon City	868	0.6%	\$ 161,016			\$ 481,980	\$ 642,996
Johnston	35,272	22.6%	\$ 6,543,046	37 miles	18.9%	\$ 5,455,612	\$11,998,658
Nash	15,253	9.8%	\$ 2,829,471	32 miles	16.3%	\$ 4,718,367	\$ 7,547,838
Northampton	1,783	1.1%	\$ 330,751	22 miles	11.2%	\$ 3,243,878	\$ 3,574,629
Robeson	23,185	14.9%	\$ 4,300,877	22 miles	11.2%	\$ 3,243,878	\$ 7,544,754
Sampson	8,358	5.4%	\$ 1,550,430	8 miles	4.1%	\$ 865,890	\$ 2,416,321
Clinton City	3,028	1.9%	\$ 561,702			\$ 313,701	\$ 875,403
Wilson	12,056	7.7%	\$ 2,236,419	12 miles	6.1%	\$ 1,769,388	\$ 4,005,807
Total	155,793	100.00%	\$28,900,000	196 miles	100%	\$ 28,900,000	\$57,800,000

Total Amount in Escrow = \$57,800,000

River Quality

On Wednesday, February 21, the House Select Committee on River Quality met to discuss long term solutions to environmental quality issues throughout the state, most immediately GenX. The committee heard presentations from various stakeholders, including the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Cape Fear Utility Authority, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW).

The committee discussed emerging issues concerning GenX concentrations near the Cape Fear Public Authority Plant, potential use of private well water filtration systems, and updates on enforcement actions taken. The Committee also spent time debating [House Bill 189 Water Safety Act](#), which was referred them on February 9th by the House of Representatives. I remain committed to finding a more permanent solution to the environmental quality issues throughout the state in a pertinent and responsible manner.

The Loss of Rev. Billy Graham

This week, the State of North Carolina lost one of its most beloved citizens, Reverend Billy Graham. Rev. Graham helped change the lives of millions and gave hope to generations of people across the globe. We reflect on his Christ-like life and humble servitude to others. We mourn the loss of such an influential evangelist, but we are comforted by Rev. Graham's own words, "Some day you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."