



## **The Holloway Report:**

NC House of Representatives  
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### **Holloway Sums Up The 2007 Session**

The 2007 General Assembly Session ended a couple of weeks ago, and all of the bills that will be passed this year have been passed including the 2007-2008 State Budget. I do have good news to report in regards to new public policy, and a final brief analysis of the budget.

This past session, I was the primary and co-sponsor of eighty bills. I was able to pass several bills, and insert language into others as the session progressed. One bill that I was able to pass earlier this session was one that made it a felony to make a false report of mass violence on school grounds. Believe it or not, it was not a felony before, and one could only be criminally charged if they specifically made a bomb threat. In the latter part of the session, I was able to get through one of the most important pieces of legislation that I have worked on since arriving in Raleigh. Earlier this session, I filed the North Carolina Illegal Immigration Prevention Act, and one of the provisions of the bill called for verifying the legal status of prisoners in our state's prisons. If a prisoner is found to be in the country illegally, they will be reported to Homeland Security for further punishment and deportation. This is one effective method of removing illegal aliens from the state, and it is a position that the House Majority Party included in their platform. However, after studying all the bills filed, I found that I was the only member that had filed such a provision. Immediately, the Minority Leader and I called a press conference to urge passage of the provision, and to make a long story short, it passed during the last week of session. It is a small step toward addressing illegal immigration in North Carolina. These illegal offenders will continue to be punished for their crime, but it will not be at the expense of the North Carolina taxpayer.

Finally, I leave you with a brief overview of the 2007-2008 Budget. This is one area in state government that has not improved in my opinion. Special provisions were inserted in the budget without proper debate, which is a violation of House Rules. Only five or six members of the entire General Assembly continue to receive the opportunity to negotiate the budget. All other members, Democrats and Republicans alike, only had a chance to look at the final budget hours before we voted. Were there good items in the budget? Of course there are good expenditures in a \$20 billion budget! However, the overall financial aspect of the budget was once again irresponsible in my opinion. Again, the state had over a billion dollar

surplus, and again the budget spent it all in addition to increasing overall spending between 9-11%. The budget failed to sunset \$300 million in temporary taxes even though we had a surplus. Taxes were increased on tobacco, and a new land transfer tax was created. It appears that North Carolina will continue to be the highest taxed state in the southeast. Our roads continue to deteriorate, counties are struggling to build the necessary schools and infrastructure, and the property owners who pay high property taxes as it is, will now face new land transfer taxes. As usual, the budget's proponents claim the budget is responsible and beneficial to education. I disagree when the budget actually strips money away from education that is intended for the classroom, and strips \$172 million dollars from the Highway Trust Fund.

I voted "no" to the 2007-2008 Budget because I see continual irresponsible spending that does not address the needs of the people of North Carolina. Proponents will attack us that opposed the budget for being against each positive item in the bill. However, the people of North Carolina are smart enough to know that we do not vote on budget items individually, though we should.

The General Assembly will now begin the study committee part of the year, and of course I will still be readily available to help with constituent needs and requests. I can be reached at my home number by dialing 985-0826, or by calling my Raleigh office at 919-733-5609. If you choose to contact me by e-mail, please know that our government system sometimes quarantines these messages. A phone call is a sure way to get in touch with me. Until next time, take care and God bless!

Bryan Holloway

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan D. Holloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'y' at the end.

Representative Bryan Holloway, 91<sup>st</sup> District