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## Dalton Files Bill Strengthening the Home Protection Pilot Program

Bill would extend program with additional funding and services

RALEIGH- State Senator Walter Dalton, Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor, filed a bill this week to expand the Home Protection Pilot Program (HPPP). The HPPP is a program created by Senator Dalton in 2004 that helps families save their homes from foreclosure. The bill, S1793, would expand access to the program to all 100 counties and double its funding to \$3 million annually through 2009. It also expands counseling and worker notification services that already exist in the program.

"The Home Protection Pilot Program is helping people across North Carolina," Dalton said. "I have heard some amazing stories about people saving their homes through the program and I am proud to sponsor this bill to expand the program. As foreclosures continue to rise across North Carolina, we must do something to help our citizens protect one of their most valuable possessions: their homes."

In February, Senator Dalton made stops in Asheville, Kannapolis, Raleigh, and Greenville to promote the expansion of the program. To date, the program has helped over 300 families save their homes from foreclosure and has helped many others through the counseling services it provides. Many of the recipients have used the program to return to school or transition into a new career. Senator Dalton's proposed expansion closely mirrors what he proposed to do in February.

"I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to support expansion of the Home Protection Pilot Program," Dalton said. "As our citizens face hard economic times, they must have some assurance that they will be able to keep their homes. This bill gives them that opportunity."

Currently, the HPPP provides qualified applicants – generally people who have lost their jobs due to changing economic conditions – a no interest "bridge" loan of up to \$20,000. Applicants can also qualify for a 120 day stay-of-foreclosure upon approval from the North Carolina

Housing Finance Agency. The program is administered through local housing counseling agencies via the NCHFA.

For more information about the HPPP, please click [here](#).

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