

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – Oct 2009

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State Issues:

- **The 2009 Session of the General Assembly adjourned on August 12th.** The NC General Assembly will reconvene on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 12:00 noon.
- **The State CBA annual Lobby Day will be on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.** Please plan to attend if you can.

Federal Issues (Reported by the MRF www.MRF.org)

- **US House Bill 1253 – HIPAA loophole fix.** – Forces insurance companies to tell you if they will not cover your medical expenses for injuries received in what they consider “dangerous” activities. (motorcycling is one of them) Passed the full House vote on April 2nd. In the Senate Health committee. Title: To require that limitations and restrictions on coverage under group health plans be timely disclosed to group health plan sponsors and timely communicated to participants and beneficiaries under such plans in a form that is easily understandable. Sponsor: Rep Burgess, Michael C. [TX-26] (introduced 3/3/2009) Cosponsors (1) Latest Major Action: 4/1/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. House voted: 111-62
- **RIGHT TO REPAIR BILL HR 2057** - a bipartisan bill called the Right to Repair Act of 2009 has just been introduced in the House of Representatives that would, in fact, make it cheaper and easier for millions of consumers to have their cars and motorcycles repaired. Although similar legislation has been introduced in previous Congresses but not voted on, it takes on additional urgency in these tough economic times, especially with the closing of many auto dealerships. Currently some manufactures only make diagnostic tools and software available to their dealerships, severely limiting repair opportunities for consumers. Enter HR 2057, introduced by Edolphus Towns (D-NY), which would require car manufacturers make the tools and diagnostic information needed to repair their vehicles available to independent repair shops on the same basis that they make them available to their dealer-operated shops. Basic consumer choice in vehicle repairs means more fair market competition, which helps keep repairs affordable. Enactment of the Right to Repair Act of 2009 would be a win both for small businesses and consumers at a time when both need a boost. Although HR 2057 does have a greater likelihood of passage this Congress than similar bills have in the past, it still has a long way to go before being signed into law. Latest Major Action: 4/22/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. **Rep. David Price (Western Wake) and Rep. Bob Etheridge (Chatham) are already co-sponsors so the only one who we still needs to co-sponsor this bill is Mikey and Iris’ Rep. Brad Miller [(202) 225-3032 www.house.gov/bradmiller/]**
- **Noise Issues – NYC has a new ordinance.** If ya cop walks by your parked motorcycle and bends down and can see that your pipes don’t have the stock EPA sticker on them, he can give you a \$1,000 fine and impound your bike on the first offense. On the second offense, he can confiscate your bike for good and hit you with a \$2,500 fine. This folks, is NOT AMERICA. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED. This is why the CBA exists. We fight unfair legislation. You have been informed. So don’t think that sitting around and doing nothing is the best way to go. There are also issues with motorcycle noise in Asheville, NC and that City is also cracking down. (A little closer to home eh?) We will be following this issue very closely and will be asking for you to write legislators and city councilpersons in the future. As I said at the last meeting, government takes away our freedoms in small doses. We need to be vigilant on all the issues effecting motorcycling so we don’t get robbed of our freedoms.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively

