

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – August 2011

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NC State Issues:

The NC House and Senate are out of session until Monday, September 2, 2011

8-1-11: LEGISLATIVE SECURITY UPGRADES: Public access to the Legislative Building and Legislative Office Building in Raleigh will soon be tougher. A \$3 million security upgrade will end unfettered public access to the legislative complex and will bring on **metal detectors**, security posts and an increased police force. Legislators on both sides of the aisle have recommended increased security for some time, especially in light of several protests at the General Assembly this session that disrupted House sessions and underscored the need for greater security. Lawmakers had originally planned to spend \$6 million and add a covered walkway between the Legislative Building and the Legislative Office Building so lawmakers, staff and visitors would not have to walk in the rain, but plans for the walkway were dropped for fear of political criticism and because money was tight this year.

H 105 MAY AS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH – Designates the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. This bill was introduced at the request of and is actively supported by CBA/ABATE of NC. Introduced by Keever, Fisher. Filed: 2/15/11' 5-4-11: Passed 1st reading, referred to Rules **No change this month – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

H 166 PURPLE HEART MOTORCYCLE SPECIAL PLATES – Authorizes DMV to develop a special motorcycle license plate for Purple Heart recipients. Introduced by McGee, Folwell, Killian, Spear. Filed: 2/22/11. 5-4-11: Passed 1st reading, passed Transportation, now in House Finance committee **No change this month– no action possible until the 2012 session.**

H 205 - MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH (H 105) – Designates the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. This bill was authored and actively supported by CBA/ABATE of NC. Introduced by Hastings, T. Moore, McCormick, Folwell. Filed: 3/1/11 5-4-11 Referred to Senate Rules committee **No change this month– no action possible until the 2012 session.**

H 392. MODIFY MOTORCYCLE HELMET REQUIREMENTS – Repeals the requirement that a person who is eighteen years old or older wear a helmet while operating a motorcycle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area. Introduced by Hastings, T. Moore, McCormick. Filed: 3/16/11 Passed 1st reading, 5-4-11: referred to House Transportation **No change this month– no action possible until the 2012 session.**

S 123 ELIMINATE MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS – Repeals the requirement that motor vehicles registered in North Carolina have an annual safety inspection. Eliminates the requirement that window tinting be inspected at an inspection station by a licensed safety inspector. Eliminates the affirmative defense to an unsafe tires charge. Eliminates the requirement that a vehicle be subject to a safety inspection before a charge for tinted windows may be made. Requires DMV to develop and implement a management improvement program for the motor vehicle emissions inspection program. Requires the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly to conduct a fiscal review of the DMV motor vehicle emissions inspection program. Introduced by Bingham (R – Gillford/Davidson). Filed: 2/24/11 5-4-11: In commerce committee. **BILL IS DEAD – BILL # REASSIGNED**

S 187 - Outlaw Red Light Camera Systems - Sponsor East (R - Stokes/Surry/Yadkin) 5-4-11: Passed Senate, in House Rules committee. **No change this month – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

S 195 - Operation of Mopeds - Sponsor Apodaca (R – Buncombe) - Requires vehicle registration and proof of financial responsibility. 5-4-11: In Senate finance committee. **No change this month – BILL IS DEAD.**

S 355 - MASONIC SPECIAL PLATE/MOTORCYCLES – Authorizes DMV to produce a motorcycle plate for civic clubs such as the Jaycees, Masons, Kiwanis, Optimist, Rotary, Ruritan, and Shrine. Introduced by East. Filed: 3/16/11 Passed 1st reading, referred to Finance: 3/17/11 **No change this month – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

S 480 – Bill title: “Let Those Who Ride Decide” Provides helmet choice for people 18 and over. 5-4-11: Sent to the Senate Rules commit. **No change this month – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

Federal and international issues:

8-3-11: MRF: Congress Exempts Youth Motorcycles, ATVs and Snowmobiles from Lead Ban - The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) has learned that earlier this week, both the US House and US Senate passed a measure to clean up the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). HR 2715, sponsored by Mary Bono-Mack (R-CA), takes aim at reforming the issue of banning youth products due to lead content percentages. Also known as the Consumer Product Safety Commission Improvement Act (CPSCIA), this bill addresses a number of issues; but first and foremost is the language to fix the lead law. HR 2715 specifically addresses the issue of youth motorcycles, other off road vehicles, and snowmobiles, effectively exempting them from the lead certification rules. The measure sailed through both the Senate and House by unanimous consent in both chambers. The MRF applauds Congress for addressing this import issue.

7-18-11: FRANCE PARALYZED BY PROTESTING BIKERS - Despite pouring rain, nearly **100,000 angry motorcyclists** brought every major city in France to a standstill in protest of unfair proposals including requiring every rider to wear a fluorescent yellow high visibility vest, banning lane splitting, and increasing the size of motorcycle registration plates. Organized by the Federation Francaise des Motards en Colere (FFMC) – **French Federation of Angry Bikers** through its highly efficient network of regional and local offices, Paris alone saw more than 15,000 bikers blocking the heart of the capital, with thousands more paralyzing dozens of cities across the country for hours with demonstrations against the French government and interior minister Claude Guéant for their anti-motorcycle policies and proposals. “Bikers in France are just fed up with Guéant’s stupid proposals and his ‘I can’t see you, I can’t hear you’ attitude, to the extent that almost 100,000 of them have today stood up against their government and **paralyzed the whole nation,**” reported www.ukfrancebikers.com. In response to the largest motorcycle protest in France’s history, road safety director Michèle Merli said on national radio that bikers misunderstood the proposed obligation to wear a high visibility vest but would rather propose to riders that they wear a little yellow strap around their arm so that they can be better seen by motorists. UK France bikers.com says they believe that “it is not the bikers who have misunderstood the latest government’s proposals but rather the French government who continue to severely misunderstand and under-estimate the safety of riders.”

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.
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God Bless Our Troops!