

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – August 2008

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State Issues:

The NC 2007-2008 legislative session ended on July 19th. The next legislative session will start in January of 2009 and run until July of 2010.

- **Lerner's Permit Bill (SB 375):** (A bill that will shorten the time a person has to learn to ride) We oppose this bill. This bill died in committee but will probably return in some form next legislative session. This was a victory for the CBA.

- **UNC Motorcycle Safety Center Bill (SB 1121)** – The CBA supports the "Motorcycle Safety Center" proposed by Senate bill 1121 which would support the development and evaluation of a "crash-prevention" approach to motorcycle safety by UNC researchers. This bill died in committee due to some riders not wanting to pay the \$2/yr fee to fund the crash-prevention safety center. The CBA will re-submit this bill in January.

- **Street Gang Prevention Act (H274/SB1358)** - We had no problem with the Senate Version (SB 1358) of this bill... The House bill is the one which criminalizes people for exercising their right to freely associate with others. The House passed as well. It is waiting on the Governor's signature. Since it is his bill, he will be signing it. Since we did not lobby hard enough and kill this bill during the legislative session, we will need to REACT to the consequences of this bill once we see how it will affect us. Since we have a constitution and we have a stated Purpose, Doc Ski feels we may be okay. That also depends on whether we are targeted as a gang or not. If we have members trafficking in drugs, carrying illegals weapons, and committing gang-related crimes, we will be targeted and those individuals will be affected by this bill and their sentences will be increased by this new law.

- **The most important legislative issue I see in the coming months is:**

NC Elections – November is election time again. Please research your candidates' position on the issues that are important to you and then if you want to consider their position on bikers' rights, please consider the following table I put together on your incumbents and how they voted on the DOT helmet bill:

Legislator	Did this legislator vote to strengthen our helmet law by voting YES on HB-563 (DOT helmets)
Rep. Joe Hackney (D) (Speaker of the House)	The Speaker usually does not vote on bill.
Rep. James Langdon (R)	No
Rep. Paul Stam (R)	Yes
Rep. Ty Harrell (D)	Yes
Rep. Marilyn Avila (R)	No
Rep. Jennifer Weiss (D)	Yes
Rep. Jim Crawford (D)	Yes
Rep. Nelson Dollar (R)	No
Rep. Jimmy Love (D)	Yes
Rep. Cary Allred (R)	No
Sen. Doug Berger (D)	No
Sen. Janet Cowell (D)	Yes
Sen. Neal Hunt (R)	No
Sen. Tony Foriest (D)	Yes
Sen. Fred Smith (R)	No
Sen. Richard Stevens (R)	No
Sen. Bob Atwater (D)	Yes

Federal Issues:

- **NO CHANGE - HIPAA Loophole** – This bill makes it illegal for medical insurance companies to discriminate against motorcyclists when they get hurt on their bikes. We have already contacted our legislators on this issue. We will continue to monitor this issue. This bill currently has 104 co-sponsors.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.
Please read DocSki's latest blog entry at least once a week:
<http://docskivnv.bravejournal.com/>