

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – August 2009

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State Issues:

- **Senate Bill 64 - Motorcycle learners' permit changes** – YOUR lobbying caused changes to this bill. The changes to the bill were significant and makes rider training mandatory for new riders UNDER the age of 18. It changed the portion wherein a permit for riders 18 and older is good for 12 months (currently is 18 months) and cannot be renewed; to being good for 12 months and can be renewed once for an additional 6 months. **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO LOBBIED. And a special Thank you to Burnie for going to the legislature on a Monday night to lobby in person.**

- **House Bill 238 – Licensing moped riders** – Rep. Melanie Goodwin (D-Richmond 66) who has introduced a bill calling for moped operators to be licensed. The bill says, “It shall be unlawful for any person who is 16 years of age or older to operate a moped ... upon any public street or highway of this State without being licensed as a driver pursuant to G.S. 20-1.Â” If passed, it would become effective Dec. 1. Currently sitting in the House Transportation committee. Did not make crossover date – bill is presumed to be dead.

- **House Bill 310 – Registration and insurance of moped** - Introduced by Rep. Nelson Cole (D) moped operators will have to have insurance like car drivers and they will not be able to travel on roads with a higher speed limit than the recommended maximum speed declared by the manufacturer. Currently sitting in the House Transportation committee. Did not make crossover date – bill is presumed to be dead.

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. (motorcycle could be one of them) Passed the full House vote on April 2nd. In the Senate Health committee.

- **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. Last month's **ACTION ALERT: The MRF asks that you contact your US Representative to ask that he/she co-sponsor this important piece of legislation. Please act now if you have not already done so.**

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively