

# Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – July 2009

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## State Issues:

- **Rep. Bonner Stiller resigned** - Last month we talked about Alamance Rep. Cary Allred resigning. This month Speaker Hackney also accepted the resignation of Rep. Bonner Stiller (R-Brunswick). Stiller, from Oak Island, cited family and business priorities as the reasons he could not continue serving.

- **Missouri's helmet bill passed the House and Senate but was vetoed by the Governor.** The bill allows riders 21 and over to choose whether they want to wear a helmet or not. However, everyone is required to wear a helmet when on an interstate highway. Governor Jay Nixon regarding Senate Bill 202. The bill passed both the House and Senate by comfortable margins and was delivered to the governor on May 29. The governor finally vetoed the proposed helmet free law on 7-3-09. He said it was the expected increase in treatment costs of injuries that led to his decision.

- **Senate Bill 64 - Motorcycle learners' permit changes** – Change the duration from 18 months to 6 months lessening the time someone has to learn to ride. It also limits it to one renewal. It also requires someone have a car drivers permit or license to get a motorcycle permit. This bill discriminates against motorcycle riders therefore, the CBA will oppose this bill. Passed the Senate, Passed the House JIII committee and is in the House Finance committee now.

- **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. 20-1.1" If passed, it would become effective Dec. 1. Currently sitting in the House Transportation committee.

- **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.

- **House Bill 9 / Senate Bill 96 - Similar to S-22 - BAN TEXTING WHILE DRIVING.** Filed 2/2/09 Sen. Forrester / Rep. Nelson Cole (D). To make it unlawful to use additional technology associated with a mobile phone while operating a vehicle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area. Gov. [Beverly Perdue](#) signed into law a [ban](#) on texting while driving.

## Federal Issues (Reported by the MRF [www.MRF.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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**

# Important Notice on Chapter Events

Who is responsible for creating and leading chapter rides?

Every member is responsible for the fun that is created by this chapter. Chatham CBA does not have an Event Coordinator and nobody is responsible for creating and leading fun rides.

If you feel like you are not riding enough with your friends in Chatham CBA, then you need to step up and prime a ride. It can be an informal meal ride or a charity ride or you can lead a ride to another motorcycle event or ride.

EVERY member should lead at least one ride per year. With over 50 members, that should provide a weekly event for everyone to attend. Do not complain about not riding enough if you don't lead chapter rides. To lead a chapter ride, just send out an email to the chapter list as far in advance as possible stating when and where you are going so members can meet you at the start of the ride.

You don't need to hand out a map to the riders; just know where you are going.

You should expect occasional emails from our member Paul Bernasconi as he will start inviting us to his rides.

Please consider inviting the chapter on your rides as well if you leave out of the western Wake or Chatham County area.

Good motorcycle events webpage:

[www.carolinamcevents.com/events/cyclenews.html](http://www.carolinamcevents.com/events/cyclenews.html)