

# Monthly Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA

## March 2008

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### State Issues:

- **CBA STATE Lobby Day is on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** – Please attend if at all possible. There will be CBA members from across the state there lobbying. We will escort you and show you what to do and what to say.

- **No change in Gang Bill (HB 275)** (A bill that would turn the CCCBA and other motorcycle groups into “gangs”) The bill was heard in the Senate Judiciary II Committee Tuesday morning, 7-3-07. The sponsor of the bill, Senator Graham was not available for the meeting and although many questions remained unanswered, the bill was pushed through the committee with the justification that it would be still have to be considered by two more committees prior to reaching the floor of the Senate for discussion (Finance and Appropriations). Watch Doc’s blog for updates:  
<http://docskivnv.bravejournal.com/>

- **No change in Lerner’s Permit Bill (SB 375):** (A bill that will shorten the time a person has to learn to ride and increase the renewal fees from \$10 to \$50) We oppose this bill. The bill passed the Senate. It currently has been sitting in the House Transportation Committee since May 15<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for future action alerts concerning this bill.

- **No change in UNC Motorcycle Safety Study Bill (SB 1121)** (A bill to fund a motorcycle crash study at UNC) This bill is currently sitting in the finance committee. The problem with this bill is that several bikers have complained about the \$2 increase to our MC registrations that will fund this center. Bikers, including CBA members are not united on this bill and we are sending different messages to the sponsors of this bill. This bill will die unless we become united.

### Federal Issues:

- **NO CHANGE - HIPAA Loophole** – We have already contacted our legislators on this issue. We will continue to monitor this issue.

- **U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters is urging Congress to allow states to divert federal money now used for motorcycle training and awareness to instead promote the use of motorcycle helmets**, the American Motorcyclist Association reports. Peters sent letters to House and Senate leaders this week asking for the change. The AMA and the MRF are both voicing their opposition to this plan and actively lobbying Senators to keep funds available for rider training and awareness. This issue of “post-crash-safety” vs “pre-crash-safety” has been going on for years. The CBA has always promoting safer riding and less crashing OVER injury reduction after a crash. Both are important, but reducing accidents will obviously also reduce injury. If the government only funnels funding towards injury reduction, crashes will continue to go up and fatalities will continue to increase. Please keep a look-out for an MRF Action Alert on this issue.

### News Items:

- **Reminder: Virginia** will remain one of only two states in the nation where it is illegal for motorcyclists to ride side by side in a lane. House Bill 48 aimed to make it legal for motorcyclists to ride abreast in a single lane but was defeated in a 9-9 vote by the Transportation committee. Vermont is the only other state where riding two abreast in a lane is illegal. The penalty in Vermont is a traffic infraction. In Virginia, it is a misdemeanor carrying harsh penalties. Those who opposed the bill cited safety concerns and unclear language as reasons for voting against the measure while others argue that since Virginia police often ride side by side when escorting processions and motorcades, motorcyclists also should be permitted to ride two abreast.

- **Wheels Through Time motorcycle museum is moving:** Maggie Valley – Wheels Through Time motorcycle museum will move out of North Carolina, its owners have announced. During its tenure in Western North Carolina, the museum has become a central hub for information and interpretation of the cultural significance of the American motorcycle, from the earliest days of the 20th century to the modern motorcycle enthusiast of today. In its nearly six years in Maggie Valley, Wheels Through Time has hosted more than 280,000 visitors from more than 140 countries and all 50 states. It has been featured in several national and international publications, as well as on national television. There’s more about the museum at [www.WheelsThroughTime.com](http://www.WheelsThroughTime.com). Burnie checked with them and they are going to Friday to Sunday 9-5 hours starting in May. They will close on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **Tennessee** Senate bill 3585, introduced by Sen. Reginald Tate (D-Memphis), would strengthen requirements for parents to ensure that young OHV riders wear helmets. Under the proposed bill, a parent commits an offense if the parent knew or should have known that a child would be operating or riding as a passenger on an OHV without wearing a helmet.

**Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.**

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