

# Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – May 2009

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## State Issues:

- **House Bill 839** – Helmet choice for riders over 21 years of age. **If you support freedom of choice for adult riders, please an email or call the members of the Transportation committee and ask them to discuss and vote to pass HB 839 in the Transportation committee. Cross-over day is May 14<sup>th</sup> and if our bioll doesn't get discussed and voted on by then, it is dead. Crossover day is when all non-financial bills have to be discussed and voted on. Only bills with financial impact go past crossover day.**

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- **Gaston County CBA is organizing a Helmet Law Protest Ride on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and wants to know if other chapters want to do the same in their county.**

- **House Bill 696 - Motorcycle Awareness Month** - This the House. It in the Senate Rules committee.

- **House Bill 920 - No passengers under 16 years of age on a motorcycle.** Introduced by Rep. Van Braxton (Dem) from Kinston. He's an insurance agent. Only on sponsor – In the House Transportation committee.

- **House Bill 67** – Introduced by Rep. Nelson Cole (D) - **This bill mandates that license tags be displayed horizontally.** Some choppers have them vertically. This will results in a class 2 misdemeanor offense if passed (NC G.S. 14-3.1 = \$100 fine). They want to make sure that traffic cameras get a good pic of the offender's plate. Any covering or alteration of a license plate will fall under this new bill. Passed the House. Currently in the Senate Transportation committee.

- **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 – Currently in the House JII committee.

- **House Bill 166 – A bill to increase the allowable speed of a scooter or moped of less than 50 cc from 30 MPH to 50 MPH.** Introduced by Rep. Cary Allred (Rep) of Alamance County who just happens to own a moped and scooter retail store. Currently sitting in the House Transportation committee. Sponsor (Allred) is under investigation for perceived driving and ethics violations.

- **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.Å" 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.

- **Senate Bill 12 / House Bill 68 - BAN MOBILE PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING.** Filed 1/28/09 by Sen Dannelly (D). TO MAKE USING A MOBILE PHONE OR ACCESSING ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY UNLAWFUL WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE ON A PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY OR PUBLIC VEHICULAR AREA.

- **Senate Bill 96/Similar to S-22 / House Bill 9 - 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. Substantively identical to H 9, filed 1/29/09. Currently in Senate Commerce committee.

**-May as Motorcycle Awareness Month NC State Proclamation has been signed by Governor Perdue.** An email was sent out to the chapter with the link to view the proclamation.

## **Federal Issues** (Reported by the MRF [www.MRF.org](http://www.MRF.org))

- **CPSC Outlaws mini-bikes for kids under 12** - The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) has learned that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted last Friday, April 17, 2009, on the issue of banning sales of youth ATVs and motorcycles because of lead levels. The CPSC voted to keep the ban in place; however, they did issue a two-year stay of enforcement of the ban. However, it is still against the law and state attorney general's can still prosecute dealers for selling these. Riders should contact their US House Representatives and ask them to support H.R. 1587, introduced by Rep. Denny Rehberg, to exempt youth-sized motorcycles and ATVs from the CPSIA. Go to the AMA site where they make it easy for you to take action: [http://capwiz.com/amacycle/issues/alert/?alertid=13289161&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/amacycle/issues/alert/?alertid=13289161&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

- **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>. The MRF is trying to get a Senate companion bill reviewed.

- **Motorcycle Safety Month - Washington, D.C.: The U.S. House of Representatives** Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed House Resolution 269, a bill entitled "Supporting the goals of a motorcycle safety month." The bill encourages all road users to be more aware of motorcyclists and their safety. In addition it encourages all riders to take appropriate rider training and learn safe riding skills. The bill is now headed to the House floor for a full vote. Riders are encouraged to contact their representatives to request their support for H.R. 269.

- MRF's “Bikers Inside the Beltway” Lobby Day is on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you are going.

## **Weird News:**

- **MUSICAL HELMETS** - A European recycle program could turn music and movie disks into motorcycle helmets. A recycling plan proposed by the Swiss supermarket chain Migros aims to reduce the number of old CDs and DVDs landing in the regular trash by collecting and using them for an unrelated end product. The recycling program aims to reduce the number of old CDs and DVDs destined for the dumpster. Collection points will be available across Switzerland, and they plan to shred the disks, using the resulting granular remains to make new products such as motorcycle helmets. According to a store spokesperson, the discs contain the valuable petroleum product polycarbonate, and far too many of them end up in the normal trash. If the program is successful, an old Madonna CD or Brad Pitt movie could be made into head gear.

- **MILLION MILE MAN** - Congratulations to Dave Zien, former Wisconsin State Senator and longtime champion of bikers' rights, for his unprecedented ride into history on April 4 as the odometer on his 1991 FXRT Harley-Davidson turned 00000 for the tenth time! Zien became the first person to ride the same Harley-Davidson motorcycle 1 million miles, which may be the most mileage on any motorcycle ever!

- **WASHINGTON STATE BIKERS PROTEST Washington State Police SURVEILLANCE** - A motorcycle rights group is demanding answers from the Washington State Patrol. During an annual rally at the Capitol this year in Olympia, a state trooper was seen on video as he recorded the license plates of those visiting their elected officials. The sergeant was seen wandering through the parking lot and using a voice recorder to take down the license plate numbers from motorcycles as their owners were inside the statehouse advocating for issues important to them.

- **Missouri's helmet bill passed the House and Senate and is sitting on the Governor's desk.** 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. They will go back next session to get that removed.

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

