

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – July 2011

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NC State Issues:

H 113. MOTORCYCLE SAFETY ACT - This bill increases the fine for a failure to provide right of way that causes a motorcyclist to change travel lanes or leave its travel lane to not less than \$200.00 and not less than \$500.00 if the violation results in property damage or personal injury to the motorcycle operator or passenger. This bill was introduced at the request of and is actively supported by CBA/ABATE of NC.

S 381. CHECKING STATION PATTERN SELECTION - This bill prevents law enforcement agencies from establishing patterns for vehicle stops at checking stations based on a particular type of vehicle while still allowing the designation of any type of commercial motor vehicle and without restricting any other type of checkpoint or roadblock that is otherwise lawful. This bill was actively supported by CBA/ABATE of NC and is a major victory in the battle to protect motorcyclists against discriminatory profiling by law enforcement agencies.

S 339 - Modify Driver Education Program to add one (1) hour of motorcycle awareness training to the existing drivers' education program. The third and fourth versions of this bill had our "one hour" in it, but the fifth and last versions did not. They removed our "one hour" of motorcycle awareness training. Question: Did you send emails? Did you lobby for this? Or, did you expect others were going to do it for you?

The General Assembly recessed June 18th until July 13th, whereupon they will meet to resolve any re-districting issues.

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H 105 MAY AS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH – Designates the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. This bill was introduced at the request of and is actively supported by CBA/ABATE of NC. Introduced by Keever, Fisher. Filed: 2/15/11' 5-4-11: Passed 1st reading, referred to Rules **No change this month**

H 166 PURPLE HEART MOTORCYCLE SPECIAL PLATES – Authorizes DMV to develop a special motorcycle license plate for Purple Heart recipients. Introduced by McGee, Folwell, Killian, Spear. Filed: 2/22/11. 5-4-11: Passed 1st reading, passed Transportation, now in House Finance committee **No change this month**

H 205 - MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH (H 105) – Designates the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. This bill was authored and actively supported by CBA/ABATE of NC. Introduced by Hastings, T. Moore, McCormick, Folwell. Filed: 3/1/11 5-4-11 Referred to Senate Rules committee **No change this month**

H 392. MODIFY MOTORCYCLE HELMET REQUIREMENTS – Repeals the requirement that a person who is eighteen years old or older wear a helmet while operating a motorcycle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area. Introduced by Hastings, T. Moore, McCormick. Filed: 3/16/11 Passed 1st reading, 5-4-11: referred to House Transportation **No change this month**

S 123 ELIMINATE MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS – Repeals the requirement that motor vehicles registered in North Carolina have an annual safety inspection. Eliminates the requirement that window tinting be inspected at an inspection station by a licensed safety inspector. Eliminates the affirmative defense to an unsafe tires charge. Eliminates the requirement that a vehicle be subject to a safety inspection before a charge for tinted windows may be made. Requires DMV to develop and implement a management improvement program for the motor vehicle emissions inspection program. Requires the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly to conduct a fiscal review of the DMV motor vehicle emissions inspection program. Introduced by Bingham (R – Gillford/Davidson). Filed: 2/24/11 5-4-11: In commerce committee. **No change this month**

S 187 - Outlaw Red Light Camera Systems - Sponsor East (R - Stokes/Surry/Yadkin) 5-4-11: Passed Senate, in House Rules committee. **No change this month**

S 195 - Operation of Mopeds - Sponsor Apodaca (R – Buncombe) - Requires vehicle registration and proof of financial responsibility. 5-4-11: In Senate finance committee. **No change this month**

S 355 - MASONIC SPECIAL PLATE/MOTORCYCLES – Authorizes DMV to produce a motorcycle plate for civic clubs such as the Jaycees, Masons, Kiwanis, Optimist, Rotary, Ruritan, and Shrine. Introduced by East. Filed: 3/16/11 Passed 1st reading, referred to Finance: 3/17/11 **No change this month**

S 480 – Bill title: “Let Those Who Ride Decide” Provides helmet choice for people 18 and over. 5-4-11: Sent to the Senate Rules commit. **No change this month**

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.
Read DocSki's blog: <http://docskivnv.bravejournal.com>

4 Things You Might Not Know About America's Independence

On July Fourth, Americans eat hot dogs and apple pie, watch fireworks, and go swimming. But what are we really celebrating?

1.) Independence Was Not Declared on July Fourth: The second Continental Congress actually voted for independence on July 2. In fact, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, predicting that future generations would celebrate July 2 as Independence Day, saying, "The second day of July, 1776, will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illumination, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore." July 4, 1776 is significant because that is the day that Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence document, but contrary to what many people believe, it was not signed on the July 4. The official signing ceremony occurred on August 2, which is when most of the signers affixed their names to the document, but other representatives signed the document throughout the summer of 1776. Finally, there is no historical record of John Hancock saying that his signature is that big so that King George could read it. It has been suggested that Hancock's is by far the largest signature simply because he was the president of Congress.

2.) It Was a States Thing First: Independence was not something that was confined to Congress. It started out as a state and local thing. In fact, the very first Declaration of Independence came on Oct. 4, 1774 (21 months before the Continental Congress declared independence) from the town of Worcester, Mass. During the next 21 months a total of 90 state and local declarations of independence would be made. When Virginia declared its independence in May 1776, they sent Rep. Richard Henry Lee to the Continental Congress with specific instructions to put forth a resolution of independence for Congress to vote on, thus allying all the colonies -- soon to become states -- against the British Empire in the War for Independence.

3.) We Are Not a Democracy: People often associate democracy with freedom. We hear this word used all the time by our politicians, by our neighbors, even sometimes by our educators. But the fact is we are not a democracy. We are a republic. Our Founding Fathers deemed this an important distinction to make and discussed the matter quite a bit. In the end, our Founding Fathers claimed that a democracy was both extreme and dangerous for a country as it would most assuredly result in the oppression of the minority by the majority. Take this one example from Founding Father, Elbridge Gerry: "The evils we experience flow from the excess of democracy." And Thomas Jefferson said that democracy should never be practiced outside the limits of a town. Our Founders were very wary of power no matter who had it and thus limited it as much as possible -- this is why we have such a unique system of checks and balances.

4.) The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere . . . and 40 others? The mythology of Paul Revere's midnight ride can be traced back to the year 1860 with the writing of that famous poem, "Paul Revere's Ride." Here's what really happened: On April 18, 1775, British troops were ordered to arrest John Hancock and Samuel Adams, both of whom were in Lexington at the time and to seize arms and provisions at Concord. Upon hearing this, Paul Revere and William Dawes set out on horseback -- taking two different routes to Lexington in order to warn Hancock and Adams. Along the way, they warned the towns they passed through of the British invasion. By the morning of April 19 roughly 40 men were out on horseback spreading the [news](#). Revere arrived at Lexington first, followed by Dawes. The two men then headed toward Concord, but were intercepted by British troops. Dawes, though injured, managed to escape, but Revere was captured. He was rescued by American militiamen a short while later. It was during this confrontation between British troops and American militiamen at Concord that the famous shot heard 'round the world was fired.