

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – Mar 2011

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NC State Issues:

H 113. MOTORCYCLE SAFETY ACT – Provides that a failure to provide right of way that causes a motorcyclist to change travel lanes or leave its travel lane is a Class 2 misdemeanor resulting in a fine of not less than \$200.00 and a Class 1 misdemeanor and a fine of 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. Introduced by Killian (R –Charlotte). Filed: 2/16/11

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. Passed 1st reading, referred to Transportation, if favorable to Finance: 2/24/11

H 187. REQUIRE LABELS FOR ETHANOL-BLENDED GASOLINE - Directs the Gasoline and Oil Inspection Board to adopt rules requiring labels for all dispensing pumps and other dispensing devices that offer ethanol-blended gasoline for retail sale in North Carolina and to require such labels to specify whether the gasoline contains ten percent or less of ethanol by volume or greater than ten percent ethanol by volume. Introduced by Hurley, Faircloth, Randleman. Filed: 2/24/11

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' Passed 1st reading, referred to Rules: 2/16/11

S 195 Operation of Mopeds - Sponsor Apodaca (R – Buncombe) - Requires vehicle registration and proof of financial responsibility

S 187 Outlaw Red Light Camera Systems - Sponsor East (R - Stokes/Surry/Yadkin)

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

Federal and International issues:

MOTORCYCLE CHECKPOINTS IN GEORGIA DURING DAYTONA BIKE WEEK - The state of Georgia has received a \$70,000 federal grant to launch motorcycle-only checkpoints in early March, just as Daytona Bike Week is getting underway. For most travelers, their route will take them through Georgia and likely into awaiting roadblocks to check for such things as proper license and current registration, insurance, DOT-approved helmets, EPA-approved mufflers, working horn and lights, etc, etc. “We were informed by unnamed sources that the Check Points would start in early March to coincide with the Daytona Bike Week event,” said Dan Forrest, State Director of ABATE of Georgia. “Most points of entry to Florida will be involved, so anyone traveling through Georgia to Daytona might want to rethink their route.”

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.

Read DocSki's blog: <http://docskivnv.bravejournal.com>

Basic Civics FAQs.

Federal Level:

What are the three branches of the US government? - The legislative branch makes laws. The judicial branch interprets the laws; and the executive branch enforces the laws.

How many members are there in the US congress? - 435 US House Representatives and 100 US Senators (total = 535)

Who is in charge of the US Senate? - The Vice President of the United States is the President of the Senate

Who represents North Carolina at the federal level? - North Carolina is represented at the federal level in the U.S. Congress by two U.S. Senators and thirteen U.S. Representatives

How long is each term for a US House Rep? - The term for a US House Rep is two years.

How long is each term for a U.S. senator? - The term for a US Senator is six years.

Who becomes president if both the president and vice president die? - The Speaker of the House becomes the President.

Who nominates judges to serve as Supreme Court justices? - The president nominates supreme court judge

Who has the power to declare war? - Only congress can declare war. (The president cannot declare war.)

What kind of government does the United States have? - The US is not a true democracy. It is a republic, or sometimes called an indirect democracy. In a true (direct) democracy the "majority rules" - and the minority loses. A hypothetical example can demonstrate the idea. Pretend that you're a land owner, and that I would like to buy some of your property. You don't want to sell this property because it's been in your family for several generations. In a direct democracy, I could gather a dozen other land owners together, proposing that we divide your land between us. We will allow you to vote on the proposition, because this IS a democracy after all -- and you will lose thirteen to one. That's a direct democracy! In a republic, nothing can outvote your individual rights! They are unalienable. If the land belongs to you it doesn't matter if I have a hundred friends, a thousand friends, or a hundred thousand friends! YOUR PROPERTY IS YOUR PROPERTY! It is the government's fiduciary responsibility to protect your rights. If you are in doubt, read your copy of the Declaration of Independence. Right after "...life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" it says, "That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed".

What is a WHIP? - The assistant majority and assistant minority leaders are also called the WHIPs. WHIPs are assistants to the floor leaders who are also elected by their party conferences. The Majority and Minority Whips are responsible for mobilizing votes within their parties on major issues. In the absence of a party floor leader, the whip often serves as acting floor leader.

What is the electoral college? - The electoral college are electors chosen from each state to elect the president and vice president of the U.S. Under Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, each state chooses electors in the same number that the state has senators and representatives. The electors have the discretion to choose the candidate they vote for, but in practice the electors vote for the candidate that wins the most votes in their respective states. In all the states except Maine, the candidate that wins a plurality of the popular votes wins all of the state's electoral votes. Since North Carolina has thirteen US Reps and two US senators, NC has fifteen electors.

Why are there two parts to the legislature? - When the Constitution was being drafted, a debate broke out between states with large populations and those with smaller populations. Each had a different opinion about how the states should be represented in the new government. To be fair to each group, a compromise was reached. By dividing Congress into two houses, the House of Representatives would favor states with larger populations, while the Senate would favor those states with smaller populations.

The House or Representatives: - There are a total of 435 members in the US House of Representatives. Each member represents an area of a state, known as a congressional district. The number of representatives is based on the number of districts in a state. Each state is guaranteed one seat. Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts the population of the states to determine the number of districts in each state. Representatives, elected for two-year terms, must be 25 years old, a citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state from which they are elected. The House has special jobs that only it can perform. It can: (1) Enact new tax laws. (2) Decide if a government official should be put on trial before the Senate if s/he commits a crime against the country.

The Senate: - There are a total of 100 members in the Senate. The Constitution states that the vice president has formal control over the Senate and is known as the president of the Senate. In actuality, the vice president is only present for important ceremonies and to cast a tie-breaking vote. Senators, elected for six-year terms, must be 30 years old, a citizen for at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which they are elected. As in the House, the Senate also has special jobs that only it can perform. It can: (1) Approve or deny any treaties the president makes. (2) Approve or deny any people the president recommends for jobs, such as cabinet officers, Supreme Court justices, and ambassadors. (3) Conduct a trial for a government official who commits a crime against the country.

Civic's Wordsearch

R B T A M E O M N S E I R I F A B T
R E S P O N S I B I L I T I E S E C
I D T N E M N R E V O G O D D O O N
V L D S C I T I L O P N E S E U T M
T G E V I T A L S I G E L T R L S X
D M M L T N I E H A T A E T A I T G
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Athens
Bias
Citizen
Constituent
Courts
Criminal Law
Democracy
Dictatorship
Election
Executive
Federal
Government
Habeas Corpus
Judicial
Law
Legislative
Liberlism
Monarchy
Parliament
Politics
Prime Minister
Referendum
Responsibilities
Rights
Senate
Voting