

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – May 2011

Vinny Neuman – Legislative Coordinator – NCRider2010@gmail.com (919) 522-4922 www.NCRider.com

NC State Issues:

Per DocSki on 5-3-11: If a bill is not heard and passed out of the chamber where it was introduced by the crossover date it will die and have no further action. The initial crossover date for this year was 12 May 2011. On Friday, the Senate voted to extend the crossover deadline to 09 June 2011. The House took it up and voted to do the same thing on Monday. This is good news for us since we have several bills that are being held in committee and have not been heard (notably HB 392 and SB 480 - The helmet bills), Now we have more time to contract our legislators and have them calendar the bills before the 09 June deadline.

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

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 5-4-11: Passed the House floor votes – Now in the Senate JII commit.

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 Finance committee

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 4-7-11: Passed House and Senate and signed by Gov. Perdue.

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 house Rules committee

H 381 Eliminate Motorcycle-only checkpoints - Charlie Boone (VP CBA/ABATE of NC) went to the House Judiciary Subcommittee B for discussion on H381, which deals with the m/c only checkpoints. The bill has been modified a little to deal with language that law enforcement feared would prohibit them from doing their jobs, but the current language is still what we want. Also, the effective date of enforcement was changed to 12/1/11. After about a 20 minute discussion of that issue, I believe that the committee members were satisfied with the answers they got. The last speaker represented the NC Sheriff's Assoc. He stated that the bill as written would not stop law enforcement from doing what they needed to do, it would only put an end to specific vehicle type roadblocks. There seems to currently be no opposition to the bill. The next step would be to see if this is sent to the House Trans. Comm. or if it goes directly to the floor. At that time we will need to either contact the comm. members or have the membership contact their reps. and ask them to vote in favor of the measure. We will keep you posted as the bill progresses. 5-4-11: Passed House –in Senate JII committee.

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

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.

S 187 - Outlaw Red Light Camera Systems - Sponsor East (R - Stokes/Surry/Yadkin) 5-4-11: Passed Senate, in House Judiciary committee.


S 195 - Operation of Mopeds - Sponsor Apodaca (R – Buncombe) - Requires vehicle registration and proof of financial responsibility. 5-4-11: In Senate finance committee.

S 339 - Modify Driver Education Program to add one (1) hour of motorcycle awareness training to the existing drivers' education program. 5-4-11: Passed House, in Senate Rules committee.

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

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.

[Federal and International issues:](#)

 **Motorcyclist deaths fell 2% to 4,376 in 2010** for the second straight year even though the use of DOT helmets was down 16%. (2009's drop was 16%.)

WEIRD NEWS: HONDA WORKING ON MOTORCYCLE SEATBELTS - Yes, you read it right...Honda is working on a system of seatbelts for motorcycles. Seems crazy, but it appears to be a serious project judging from the patents Honda has filed for the system, and images posted on BikersPost.com. According to the website, the belt arrangement is designed for larger touring bikes like the Gold Wing where the rider won't be moving around much in the seat, and the belt can work with the airbag to more effectively reduce injuries. However, Honda apparently has recognized that in a lot of accidents it's better to be away from the bike rather than attached to it, so their new seatbelt system also has elements of ejector seat: When the computer senses that the bike is irretrievably tipping over it releases the entire seat, with the rider still attached, and inflates an airbag backrest. “The idea is that having ejected you slide down the road in a sitting position, with the seat betwixt your hide and the asphalt. Sort of extreme tobogganing.”

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

*In Memory Of
Becky Mooney*



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