

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – May 2012

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NC State Issues:

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 – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

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 – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

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 – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

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 – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

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 – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

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 – no action possible until the 2012 session.**

IMPORTANT NC DATES:

2012 Primary Election: 8 May 2012
General Election: 6 November 2012

Second Primary Election (if necessary): 26 June 2012
Short session starts: May 16, 2012

5-3-12: Lobby Day for CBA/ABATE of NC will be held on 23 May 2012 beginning at 9:00 AM. The meeting place will be the Huddle Room of the Clarion Hotel Downtown. The Clarion is located at 320 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27603. The number for room reservations is 919-832-0501. We will convene the meeting at 09:00 hours for a brief discussion of the CBA Goals for 2012 and some tips for talking to your elected officials. If you are scheduling meeting times with your legislators please do not schedule anything before 10:00. The meeting should be over in plenty of time for you to make a 10:00 appointment. Please advise your chapter early so that members may make plans to miss work on that day. Looking forward to seeing all of you there. Doc Ski Legislative Director, CBA/ABATE of NC

Chatham CBA ride will leave the Citgo gas station on the corner of Hwy 64 and Jenks Rd in Apex at 8:00 AM.

Federal and international issues:

4-20-12 - MICHIGAN RIDERS WIN HELMET FREEDOM - Proving that persistence pays off, motorcyclists in Michigan shook off the sting of two previous gubernatorial vetoes of their helmet law repeal bills over the past few years and bounced back to win freedom of choice with the stroke of their new governor's pen. Allowing motorcyclists to ride helmet-free could also generate more than \$1 billion in direct and indirect revenue, according to a recent Michigan Consultants study. The new law gives Michigan the strictest requirements for riding helmet-free of any state that has modified mandatory helmet laws for adult choice. To ride helmet-free in Michigan, motorcyclists must:

* Be at least 21 years old.

* Have at least two years of riding experience or undergo special safety training.

* Carry at least \$20,000 in additional medical insurance.

4-20-12: NEW VIRGINIA LAW ALLOWS MOTORCYCLISTS TO RIDE SIDE-BY-SIDE Motorcyclists are eager to legally cruise side-by-side now that Governor Bob McDonnell has signed legislation permitting them to ride two abreast in a single driving lane in Virginia. House Bill 97, sponsored by Delegate Tony Wilt (R-Harrisonburg), passed overwhelmingly 87-10 in the House and 38-2 in the Senate, and will now allow two-wheeled motorcycles to drive alongside each other in one lane. State law currently prohibits motorcyclists from riding next to one another, and violators can be charged with reckless driving. “The bill allows riders to use their own judgment in determining when it is appropriate to ride beside someone, but does not require them to do so,” said Del. Wilt. “One goal is to eliminate the harsh punishment placed on riders for doing something as innocent as pulling aside another rider while stopped or taking off together after being

stopped." Virginia will become the 49th state to accommodate two-abreast riding when the new law takes effect July 1. Vermont remains the only state to prohibit the practice.

4-20-12 – WEIRD NEWS: MOTORCYCLISTS CHARGED WITH TERRORISM FOR NOISY EXHAUST Prosecutors in violence-stricken northern Mexico have brought terrorism charges against two motorcyclists because their loud exhaust pipes backfired and caused a sound like gunshots that sent a crowd into a panicked stampede. The two motorcyclists were leaving their workplace near the main square of the northern city of San Luis Potosi, where an Easter week festival was being held. The two got on their bikes and fired them up, and that is when the confusion began. Because the backfiring of the engines sounded like the popping of gunshots, hundreds of people stampeded out of the square seeking cover. But the streets were nearly blocked by vendor stalls, causing the crowd to pile up and resulting in some people getting trampled. That, not the motorcycle engines, was the real problem, according to the state Human Rights Commission, which has launched an investigation into the arrests and noted that the two suspects had been beaten by police. State law defines terrorism as acts that "produce alarm, terror or fear in the population ... to disturb the public peace or try to undermine government authority." Officials say state criminal codes often lack lesser but more appropriate charges to handle situations involving acts that may be irresponsible but are hardly criminal. It would all seem amusing, if the two men weren't facing possible sentences of five to 20 years in prison if convicted. While that seems like harsh punishment for a noisy exhaust, authorities said such irresponsible behavior is a real problem for states where drug-gang gun battles have terrorized residents in recent years.

5-1-12: FEMA-A call for action to put an end to killer guardrails:

<http://www.fema-online.eu/index.php?page=guardrails>

Safe roadside barriers for motorcyclists. An urgent need in Europe Press Briefing

http://www.fema-online.eu/uploads/images/guardrail/SMART%20RRS/SMARTRRSEvent_PressBriefing.pdf

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

