

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – November 2011

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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.**

10-28-11: SHORT SESSION TO BE...WELL, SHORT: North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis (R-Mecklenburg) told the Winston-Salem Journal that he intends the 2012 "Short" session to be the shortest in history. Legislative sessions in even numbered years normally do not begin until after the May primary and usually only last until mid-July, although some "short" sessions have lasted much longer, and are devoted primarily to adjusting the biennial budget adopted in the previous year based on updated revenue estimates and changes in state expenditures. The State Constitution does not require that legislators convene in even-numbered years, and prior to 1973 there were no "short" sessions. So, what with there being little revenue to disperse coupled with North Carolina's lawmakers wanting to get back to their respective districts to campaign, expect next year's "short" session to be just that.

IMPORTANT DATES:

North Carolina General Assembly convenes: 7 November 2011

Candidate Filing Period: 13-29 February

2012 Primary Election: 8 May 2012

Second Primary Election (if necessary): 26 June 2012

General Election: 6 November 2012

Federal and international issues:

10-20-11: EPA UNDER SCRUTINY CONCERNING E15 – CALL TO ACTION! Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) has introduced HR 3199, a bill that would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to seek independent scientific analysis on the affects of 15-percent ethanol blend gasoline. The bill would not overturn the option for ethanol to continue to be sold, it simply asks for more study on the use of an E15 blend; something the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) has been asking for as well. "The EPA's decision to allow E15 into the marketplace will impact every American who owns a car, lawnmower, or boat. Automakers insist that using E15 will void warranties, lower fuel efficiency, and cause premature engine failure. In off-road engines, the effects can even be dangerous for users," Sensenbrenner said. "There are serious concerns that the EPA used only one Department of Energy test

and rushed E15's introduction into the marketplace. This test was limited in scope and ignored a plethora of evidence – albeit inconvenient evidence for the EPA – that shows E15 gasoline has a negative effect on engines.” Sensenbrenner is very serious about this issue. He conducted his own study by questioning 14 automakers about the effect of an E15 blend on their products. The unanimous consent was grim. Everybody agreed that E15 would void warranties, damage engines and lower fuel efficiency. **The MRF requests that you contact your Representative in the United States House of Representatives and ask them to cosponsor HR 3199, the Sensenbrenner EPA E15 study bill.**

Contact Wake Rep. David Price: http://price.house.gov/contact/contact_form.shtml

Contact Chatham Rep. Renee Ellmers: <http://ellmers.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=3§iontree=3>

10-11-11: Washington D.C.: Former two-term U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard of Colorado has joined the AMA as vice president for government relations. Allard, who represented Colorado during three terms in Congress and two terms in the U.S. Senate from 1991 to 2009, said he is looking forward to his new role.

10-25-11: NATIONWIDE MOTORCYCLE THEFTS DOWN - A motorcycle is stolen every 9.5 minutes in America, but according to a report by the National Insurance Crime Bureau, motorcycle thefts last year were **down 24% from their 2007 total. There were 65,678 motorcycles reported stolen in 2007 compared with 49,791 in 2010**, according to data from theft reports contained in the National Crime Information Center. **The top five makes stolen last year were: (1) Honda, 12,260; (2) Yamaha, 9,853; (3) Suzuki, 7,869; (4) Kawasaki, 5,470; and (5) Harley-Davidson, 3,301.** Combined, these five brands accounted for 38,753 thefts in 2010, or 77.8 percent of the total. **The top five states with the most motorcycle thefts in 2010 were: (1) California, 5,662; (2) Texas, 4,394; (3) Florida, 4,148; (4) North Carolina, 2,649; and (5) Indiana, 1,925.** These five states accounted for 18,778 thefts, or 37.7% of the total.

10-25-11: The MRF Legislative Strategy Agenda for 2011-2012.

1. Transportation Equity Act (TEA) Reauthorization (the Highway Bill) – closely monitor for any action that would positively or negatively impact motorcycles, motorcycling, and motorcyclists
2. Continuation of the Motorcycle 2010 Safety Grant Funding program – tighten up language for qualification and use
3. Continuation of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) lobbying ban within individual states
4. Pursue continuation of the Motorcycle Advisory Council designed to advise the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on motorcycling issues. (MRF sits at this table.)
5. Oppose any federal blackmails or sanctions contained in the Highway Bill related to motorcycles
6. The MRF will not promote adoption of the SAE sound test as a national enforcement standard – considered a state issue
7. Pursue reintroduction of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) HR1253, which would require health insurance companies to cover all motorcycle related medical costs or tell you up front that they won’t.
8. Continue successful work to cut off all funding for NHTSA motorcycle-specific checkpoint grants
9. Continue monitoring the crash causation and the naturalistic studies
10. Oppose any federal standard proposing stamping and certifying motorcycle exhaust systems
11. Continue to monitor the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sound emissions study
12. Oppose ALL forms of distracted driving
13. Watch closely for motorcycle-specific discrimination
14. Continue promotion of Right to Repair Act
15. Continue participation at the federal level where definitions of a motorcycle are under review
16. Continue active participation in motorcycle-related activity in the European Union and United Nations
17. Oppose any mandatory helmet or apparel laws
18. MRF will not support the use of E15 fuel until further testing is done; continue to seek recommendations from motorcycle original equipment manufacturers (OEM)
19. Pursue safer roadway design strategies and inclusion of motorcycles in ongoing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) work; encourage improved crash barriers and safer cable barrier engineering
20. Continue to promote the theme of crash avoidance versus safer crashing

MRF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (11): Kirk “Hardtail” Willard (Chair), Keith Ball, Dave Dwyer, Jeff Hennie, **Cindy Hodges (Raleigh CBA)**, Jay Jackson, Jim “Legs” Korte, Boyd McFail, Larry Nielson, John Pierce, Todd Riba

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.
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