

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – November 2012

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

NC State Issues:

- 9 January 2013: One Day Legislative Organizational Session
- 30 January 2013: 2013-2014 NC General Assembly Convenes Regular Session
- 6 February 2013: CBA/ABATE of NC Lobby Day

Federal Issues:

FATALITIES FALL IN MICHIGAN AFTER HELMET LAW REPEAL - The numbers speak for themselves, said Vince Consiglio, president of ABATE Michigan, in announcing a decrease in motorcycle deaths since the state repealed their mandatory helmet law. Despite dire predictions to the contrary, motorcycle fatalities actually have dropped by 7% based on statistics obtained from the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Secretary of State. On April 12, 2012, the requirement for motorcycle helmets was amended to allow adult choice for bikers 21 and older, providing they completed an accredited motorcycle-safety course or had a minimum of two years riding experience. According to an ABATE press release, from 2011 (pre-amendment) to 2012 (post amendment) motorcycle fatalities dropped from 89 to 85 in Michigan, a 4.5% reduction. During the same time period, the number of motorcycle registrations increased from 261,658 to 266,589, so ABATE concludes; "If the fatality rate is adjusted to the total of motorcycle registrations it shows that the fatality rate has decreased from 0.034% to 0.031% since the helmet-law amendment - a seven percent reduction." "This data proves conclusively that the helmet-law amendment had no adverse effect on motorcycle safety," Consiglio told The Detroit News.

DEER TAKE DEADLY TOLL ON MOTORCYCLISTS - When a deer collides with a vehicle that weighs a couple of tons, the fragile animal almost always gets the worst of it. When a deer meets a motorcycle on the roadway, both the rider and the deer may suffer the same fate stated the Washington Post in reporting on research by AAA that found that seven of the eight people who died in crashes involving deer over a three-year period in Maryland and Virginia were motorcyclists. Nationwide, the auto club said, about 70% of deer-crash fatalities involve motorcycles. Because they are riding on two wheels, motorcycle riders and their passengers are especially vulnerable when they smash into a deer, said John B. Townsend II, an AAA spokesman. The deer mortality rate becomes most evident this time of year, as the mating season has more deer on the move. Their carcasses by the roadside attest to the danger that the lure of romance poses for them and for drivers. In 2010, the latest year for which there are national statistics, 403 people were killed in accidents involving deer.

Grassroots activism at its best. - EUROPEAN BIKERS PROTEST VEHICLE-INSPECTION PLAN - Thousands of motorcyclists rolled into Belgium to protest an EU proposal for regular mandatory bike inspections. The law would be "expensive and useless," said representatives from the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Association (FEMA) who met with European Union officials EU headquarters in Brussels as more than **4,500 motorcycles roared through the city's streets, protesting the proposed law** that would introduce mandatory EU-wide road-worthiness tests for motorcycles. The new EU-wide regulations would supersede national safety inspection rules for four-wheel and two-wheel vehicles, and FEMA said the law would offer "no benefits expected in terms of safety, as proven by several independent studies." Members of Belgium's Federation of Angry Bikers (FBMC) turned out in large numbers for the protest. "Only 0.3 percent of motorcycle accidents in Belgium and 0.6 percent in Europe are due to technical problems," FBMC head Joe Verrecke told the Belgian news agency Belga.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.