

News For Thought

Anti-Profilng Legislation Introduced In Pennsylvania

On November 13, 2015 Pennsylvania Senator John Wozniak (D-Johnstown) introduced Bipartisan Bill SB1058: An Act providing for motorcycle profiling prohibited, and the measure has been referred to Law and Justice.

"No police officer or police department may engage in motorcycle profiling in this Commonwealth," states the bill, and calls for police instruction on "what constitutes motorcycle profiling in patrol procedures and other police department operations and the duty to refrain from engaging in motorcycle profiling."

As defined in this legislation, "motorcycle profiling" means "the use of the fact that an individual rides a motorcycle or wears clothes or possesses paraphernalia that a reasonable person associates with such individuals as a factor in a decision to stop and question, take enforcement action against, arrest or search the individual or motorcycle in violation of Federal or State law."

Such violations by law enforcement "may bring a private right of action in a court of competent jurisdiction against any police officer or police department that engages in motorcycle profiling in violation of this section. In the action, the victim may be awarded injunctive relief, actual damages, punitive damages and reasonable attorney fees and costs."

A companion measure, House Bill 1580, "prohibiting motorcycle profiling and establishing a private right of action" was introduced October 1st by Representative Garth Everett (R-Muncy) along with 46 bipartisan cosponsors and was referred to the House Judiciary committee.

Bikers' Lawyer Files Civil Rights Lawsuit Against Vegas Police

A Nevada lawyer who represents motorcycle clubs has filed a federal civil rights, false arrest and negligence lawsuit against Las Vegas police after he was acquitted in March of a misdemeanor obstruction charge.

Southern Nevada Confederation of Clubs (COC) attorney Stephen Stubbs alleges that a Las Vegas practice of harassing motorcycle club members led to his arrest in November 2013, and that being found not guilty by a local judge showed the arrest was improper. Stubbs told the Associated Press (AP) that he was prevented from representing a member of the Bikers for Christ motorcycle ministry who was being questioned by police, and who is a plaintiff in a recent lawsuit seeking at least \$75,000 in damages from the department.

Stubbs is representing members of biker groups, including the Mongols, Vagos, Stray Cats and Bandidos in a federal civil rights complaint filed in June 2012 alleging harassment by Las Vegas and other area police. The lawsuit is pending in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas. It was filed a day after a meeting of Mongols national leaders in Boulder City was monitored by hundreds of local and state police and federal agents.

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There are many deaf and hard of hearing car drivers and motorcyclists on the road today. To compensate, drivers and motorcyclists typically employ risk-reduction strategies such as Search/Evaluate/Execute (SEE), maintain longer following distances, make better use of peripheral vision, and check their mirrors more frequently.

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Study Indicates Motorcycle Rider' Injuries Differ With Helmet Use

Helmet-wearing motorcycle riders are less likely to hurt their heads in accidents, but end up with more injuries to other parts of their bodies, suggests new research.

Researchers suggest in JAMA Surgery that the results may be due to helmeted riders being more likely to survive high-force crashes, and ultimately end up with more extensive injuries.

The authors write that loosening restrictions on helmets in some U.S. states allowed them to study how wearing head protection may influence other injuries. For the study, they used national data from 2007 to 2010 on almost 86,000 people with some sort of motorcycle-related trauma, paying particularly close attention to the number and extent of injuries to people's heads and necks, torsos, spines and extremities.

Overall, the researchers found helmeted motorcycle riders were about half as likely to end up with head injuries, but helmeted riders were more likely to have injuries to the chest and extremities than riders who weren't wearing helmets.

One explanation for increased injuries to other body parts could be that helmeted riders feel more secure and end up driving at higher speeds, wrote the Indiana University researchers.

There was no difference in the time people spent in a hospital regardless of whether they were helmeted.

Weird News: Yamaha to Showcase Bike-Riding Robot

As an extreme example of ITS Smart Technology, among Yamaha's concepts set to appear at the Tokyo Motor Show is a motorcycle-riding robot, presumably to save motorcyclists from the drudgery of performing the task themselves.

Self-driving cars are understandable, but self-riding bikes are harder to get a handle on. Yamaha says it will display "an autonomous motorcycle-riding humanoid robot that combines motorcycle and robotics technologies." There's no further official information, but the Japanese motorcycle-maker has also recently trademarked the name "MotoBot".



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