

# News For Thought



## Missouri To End Safety Inspections On Newer Vehicles

New-ish car and bike owners can take that \$10-12 you've been setting aside to pay for a state safety inspection and go buy something nice for yourself or your vehicle. Under legislation that took effect on New Year's Day in Missouri, vehicles five years old and newer will no longer need an inspection when renewing license plates.

That means in 2010, 2005 model year and newer autos, including cars, trucks and motorcycles, will be exempt. Models from 2006 won't need their first inspection until 2012. Previously, vehicles are exempt from safety inspections for their model year and the year after that.

Inspections are performed at thousands of repair shops across the state and cost \$12 for cars and trucks and \$10 for motorcycles. The Missouri Department of Revenue, which manages vehicle registration, estimates that 650,000 vehicles will be affected by the exemption. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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## Indiana Harley Dealer Fights Sunday Bike Sales Ban

There are some things you can't buy on Sundays in Indiana: alcohol, cars, and motorcycles.

One Hoosier Harley-Davidson dealer thinks this "blue law" against buying motorcycles is ridiculous, and he's teaming up with an Indiana state senator to change it. Mark Forszt owns four Harley dealerships throughout the state and says the law is hurting his business, and that it makes no sense. On Sundays, he's open for business, and he can sell you everything you'd ever need to put a bike together yourself. He just can't actually sell you the bike.

"It's a huge loss to the state in terms of sales tax revenue," said Forszt, who contacted state Senator Ed Charbonneau to address the problem in the legislature, framing the issue as a way to help small business. When you add up all the sales tax, it's also a way to help the state of Indiana, home to some 300 motorcycle dealerships, said Charbonneau. "If every one of those dealerships sold one motorcycle a Sunday, or even one a month, that's a pretty sizable infusion of cash into the state coffers," Senator Charbonneau told local NBC-affiliate WNDU.

The bill to change the law has been drafted and filed, but until something changes, the Sunday choices in this store will be limited. What dealers like Forszt complain about is you could sell a bike through a newspaper, Craigslist, or eBay on Sunday, but in a store it's illegal. It is currently a class D misdemeanor to sell a motorcycle on Sunday. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

## Proposed Legislation To Let Michigan Riders Buy Permits To Ride Helmetless

Motorcyclists in Michigan would be able to buy a permit to ride without a helmet if a newly-introduced bill becomes law.

It would apply to riders who are 21 years or older, have been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least two years or completed a safety class, and have at least \$20,000 in health insurance. The \$100-a-year permit would make helmets optional. Any passenger over 21 years riding with a permit holder wouldn't need a helmet.

State Representative Richard LeBlanc (D-Westland) said wearing a helmet should be a personal choice. LeBlanc told Capitol News Service of the Macomb Daily newspaper that he's been involved with the issue since the 1970s when he started riding a motorcycle, adding that he introduced the bill because he believes that wearing a helmet should be a personal choice.

The bill is pending in the House Committee on Regulatory Reform, though ABATE of Michigan reportedly does not support the legislation and is dedicated to working with their new governor to repeal the existing helmet law with no fees, additional insurance or stickers.

Michigan riders, spearheaded by ABATE and the Confederation of Clubs of Michigan, succeeded in passing helmet repeal legislation twice since 2006 only to have both bills vetoed by outgoing Gov. Jennifer Granholm. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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## Wisconsin Bills Would Honor Harley-Davidson

A bill has been introduced in the Wisconsin state legislature to create a special license plate commemorating Harley-Davidson, the iconic Milwaukee motorcycle manufacturer.

The legislation would authorize the creation of an automobile license plate available for purchase that would include Harley-Davidson's trademark bar and shield logo and the message "Share the Road."

Available for cars and trucks registered in Wisconsin, the revenue collected by the Department of Transportation from the specialty plate sales would be used for conducting public workshops on motorcycle safety; evaluating basic rider education courses; creating transportation messages at motorcycle rallies; providing funds for motorcycle-related safety and training programs; and grants to providers of motorcycle safety training courses.

"Motorcycling is a huge part of Wisconsin's culture and plays a big role in our state's economy," state Rep. Jim Sullivan told The Business Journal of Milwaukee upon introducing the measure. "This license plate helps us protect that heritage and promote sharing the road safely with all drivers."

The goal is to have the plate ready by May 2010, which is motorcycle safety month in most states.

Wisconsin lawmakers are also currently considering legislation declaring Harley-Davidson the state's official motorcycle, similar to recognizing a state bird or flower. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

Check out this link for a medical story linking Riding and Health Issues <http://www.prweb.com/releases/motorcycle/seats/prweb3209104.htm>

## Africans Impound Thousands Of Motorcycles For Lack Of Helmet

Lagos State Sector Command authorities in this Nigerian city reportedly impounded 21,300 motorcycles last year because of failure of the motorcyclists to wear crash helmets.

Public Education Officer, Mrs Ijeoma Nwachi, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos that the command has intensified enforcement on the usage of crash helmets in the state. The public education officer also said that the command had confiscated 3,500 substandard helmets since January 2009. She said wearing of crash helmets by motorcyclists and their passengers was in line with section 41(1) (e) of the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2004.

Nwachi also said that overloading with passengers is a serious issue, and added that many motorcyclists were in the habit of riding without side mirrors. "Riding without side mirror is an offence under section 41(1)(p) of the Nation Road Traffic Regulations 2004, which states that all motorcycles shall be equipped with two rear view mirrors," she said. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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## Weird News: Man Assaulted Over Pictures Of Motorcycle

In a twisted version of "Dog the Bounty Hunter" meets "Repo Man", Sioux Falls Police say a man hired to repossess a motorcycle ended up assaulting and kidnapping the bike owner's dad instead.

A South Dakota father received a call from a man claiming he needed pictures of a motorcycle that his son owned. The father thought the person calling was from a dealership and needed evidence for a payment plan he had set up, but when the undercover repo guy arrived at his home, the bike owner's dad became uneasy and told him he didn't feel comfortable with the man taking pictures of the motorcycle.

The repossession agent refused to leave and when the father said he was going to call the police, he put the dad in hand-cuffs and threatened him with a taser. He was later arrested for aggravated assault and kidnapping.