

News For Thought



Pennsylvania Noise Legislation Could Turn Nosey Neighbors Into Narcs

House Bill 2104 on noise control was introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature on November 18 and referred to the House Committee on Transportation to consider allowing citizens to report loud vehicles and noisy mufflers to authorities for further action.

As introduced, HB 2104 reads;
Exhaust systems, mufflers and noise control.

(f) Enforcement for violations -

(1) A person who reasonably believes that a motor vehicle is in violation of this section may file a complaint, containing the registration plate number, with a magisterial district judge.

(2) Based on the information in the complaint, the magisterial district justice may issue a search warrant for the vehicle and shall forward the search warrant and information contained in the complaint to the Pennsylvania State Police for investigation.

(3) Upon receipt of the search warrant, the Pennsylvania State Police shall investigate whether the vehicle is in violation of this section and shall take appropriate action to enforce the provisions of this section.

(4) A person who files more than one complaint under this section which, after investigation by the Pennsylvania State Police, are determined not to support a violation of this section shall be prohibited from filing any additional complaint under this section for a period of 12 months. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

Arizona Bikers Protest Discrimination And Police Harassment

As a state highway patrol helicopter circled low over head and the state gang task force took photos from across the street, several hundred bikers from 40 motorcycle clubs throughout Arizona assembled after their regularly scheduled Arizona

Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs meeting on November 7th for a protest ride past four Kingman bars that recently adopted a "NO COLORS" policy.

ACMC advocates for biker rights and meets twice a month, discussing issues like helmet or emission laws or pushing for biker-friendly legislation. Dan Balentine, president of the Desert Road Riders Motorcycle Club and secretary for the ACMC told the Daily News that the confederation of clubs is in the process of hiring a third lobbyist to work on the no colors policy initiated by some bars and restaurants in Kingman. Balentine said ACMC's mission statement is to educate the public of the positive aspects of motorcycle clubs and lawfully oppose intrusion to biker rights.

One of the ACMC lobbyists, Skypilot, is based at the state capital in Phoenix and works with the legislators while a second lobbyist works on federal issues in Washington, D.C. Skypilot reported that he is talking with state legislators on motorcycle issues such as right of ways, emissions, discrimination by law enforcement, correctly fastening license plates and extended yellow lights.

ACMC's president Ray "Still Ray" Fitzgerald, said the object of the protest ride was to draw attention to the way the gang task force illegally forces bars to adopt the no colors policy or face having their liquor licenses pulled.

Riders wearing their club colors on the protest ride arrived armed with discrimination forms to document people who were turned away for a possible class-action lawsuit. "Why would they turn us away?" said Steve Musgrave, a member of the Desert Thunder MC and a registered motorcycle rights lobbyist for eight years. "Our money should be as good as everyone else's." Musgrave, who also serves on the National

Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) board of directors, said it is unfair for police to label motorcycle clubs as gangs. "We are a club, not a gang. We have regular meetings and pay dues," he said. "Almost everybody here is a law-abiding citizen who has a job and pays their taxes, just like everyone else." www.ON-A-BIKE.com

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Always -On Headlight Law Proposed In Illinois

A state lawmaker has introduced legislation requiring Illinois motorists to turn on their headlights even during daylight hours to make it easier for motorists to see each other, thus reducing accidents. "It would enhance safety," Rep. Dan Brady said.

It also would put Illinois alone in the U.S. Although day-time running lights are required in some European countries, the only other state where it is even being considered is Alaska. In Juneau, state lawmakers say long twilight periods and low sun angles there produce shadows and make it difficult to see vehicles.

Most motorcycles are already required to have a headlamp on at all times for increased conspicuity, and many riders feel they would lose their visibility and be lost in a sea of headlight beams if all vehicles were to run with their lights on.

If House Bill 4701 is approved, someone caught for not turning on their lights could face a fine of \$75. Brady said he wants to study the issue more before he asks his colleagues to vote on the matter. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

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Australian Bikers Threaten To Sue Pubs Over Colors Discrimination

Members of at least 21 of the state's "bikie gangs" are preparing to sue the 53 pubs, clubs, hotels and cocktail bars from Wollongong to The Entrance where they are banned if they turn up for a drink wearing club colors or their trademark bikie jewelry.

They claim the bars are breaching the Anti-discrimination Act, the Human Rights Commission Act and probably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which has been adopted by Australia.

After gauging reaction from the bars, the United Motorcycle Council NSW plans to take action on behalf of all the clubs. The council was formed earlier this year as a reaction to government efforts to ban motorcycle clubs through the strictest anti-gang laws in the world. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

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Japanese Motorcycle Exports Down By Half

Motorcycle exports from Japan have slumped by over 50%, according to shocking new figures released by the industry watchdog.

In October 2009 global exports of motorcycle from Japan were recorded at 41,143 units, compared with the 90,702 units total recorded for the same month of the previous year. The 54.6% export decrease is the twenty-fifth consecutive month that export figures have dropped, according to a recent JAMA report. The total value of motorcycles exported for October was 334.12 million U.S. dollars including 229.94 million U.S. dollars for vehicles and 14.18 million U.S. dollars for parts. This is a decrease of 263.09 million U.S. dollars or 44.1 percent, as compared with 597.21 million U.S. dollars recorded for the same month of the previous year, the report stated. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

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QUOTABLE QUOTE: "Too bad that all the people who really know how to run the country are busy driving taxi cabs and cutting hair." George Burns, comedian (1896 – 1996)