

# News For Thought

## Florida Bikers enjoy Political Success

ABATE of Florida, Inc. reports that four of the bills that they supported have been passed and signed by Governor Jeb Bush. Included in those bills are a Right-of-Way violations measure that enhances penalties against those who are convicted of a right-of-way violation that results in the severe injury or death of another person.

Another ABATE-backed bill will result in stiffer penalties for those convicted of running a red light that causes an accident resulting in the injury or death of another road user. In addition, a law was passed to modify the state's current handlebar height limit to allow them to be shoulder height when the rider is seated on the bike. Previously, handlebars could be no more than 15 inches from the seat, causing many stock motorcycles to be illegal.

But the coup de gras for Florida riders was a state budgetary item that earmarks \$500,000 for motorcycle safety to be administered by ABATE of Florida, Inc. "This money will allow us to protect our people," said James "Doc" Reichenbach, State President of ABATE of Florida, Inc., and Chairman of the Board of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM). ABATE has already begun putting up motorcycle safety billboards. This is the first time that a state motorcyclists' rights organization has succeeded in getting safety funding approved through the state budget. "We want other states to know what we did, so that they can do it in their states," said Doc.

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish aim-ncom.com

## Massachusetts Bill would allow Motorcyclists to ride on Shoulder

House No. 2017, a bill which would allow motorcyclist the use of the breakdown and access lanes on highways during backed up traffic, has been introduced in Massachusetts to allow traffic relief for motorcyclists and to avoid overheating in heavy traffic. The "Motorcyclists Seasonal Traffic Congestion Relief Act", sponsored by the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association (MMA), would allow motorcyclists on Massachusetts roads with two or more travel lanes in the same direction, when traffic is traveling at 10 mph or less, to use the breakdown and access lanes, at speeds NO GREATER THAN 20 mph, yielding to emergency and disabled vehicles, to help relieve traffic congestion and prevent motorcycles from over-heating and becoming disabled themselves. In other action, House Bill 1983, submitted at the request of the MMA, would prohibit any municipality or the state from banning motorcycles on any public road. Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish aim-ncom.com

Arkansas motorcyclists, lead by efforts from ABATE of Arkansas, now may proceed through a red light, when safe to do so, if the vehicle detection device does not recognize the motorcycle. HB2833 was signed by the Governor and is now Act 1886 which allows motorcycles to treat a red light as a stop sign in certain cases. In other good news for Arkansas motorcyclists SB993, a bill to enhance right of way violations consistent with the AMA Justice For All initiative, passed through the State Legislature and has been signed by the Governor. [www.motorcycle-usa.com](http://www.motorcycle-usa.com)

Virginia Governor Mark Warner (D) has signed into law House Bill 2020, sponsored by Delegate John Welch (R-Virginia Beach), requiring those using steel plates during street repairs or utility work on streets to follow newly developed standards of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) regarding warnings and markings of the plates. Those standards require reflective markings at least 4 inches in width at various points around the perimeter of the plate. The VDOT standards also require that a "Steel Plate Ahead" sign be placed in advance of the temporary steel plate to warn approaching vehicles of the changed roadway condition. [www.motorcycle-usa.com](http://www.motorcycle-usa.com)



Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano (D) officially signed HB2357 into Arizona State Law. HB2357 will exempt from emissions testing all vehicle's 15-years and older that have collectible vehicle insurance coverage, and it will exempt all years of motorcycles from emissions testing in the Tucson area only. Phoenix area motorcycles will still have to submit to emissions testing. The legislation must now be approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency under their State Implementation Plan to improve our air quality [www.motorcycle-usa.com](http://www.motorcycle-usa.com)

Travel-planning Web site Orbitz said its customers can now rent Harley-Davidson motorcycles when booking air, hotel and vacation packages in the U.S. Customers can choose from a variety of models, including Dyna Wide Glyde, Electra Glide, Fat Boy, Heritage Softail and Road King. The motorcycle rentals are available through a partnership with EagleRider, the motorcycle rental and tour company. Orbitz customers have access to bikes in 24 cities including Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington. The rentals range in price from \$85 to \$142 per day, according to Orbitz spokesperson Jeanenne Diefendorf. They include helmets, customer orientation and on-site storage for luggage and valuables. What this means to you: Calling all closet bikers and biker babes...if you are willing to pay two to three times the cost of a basic rental car, you might have a lot of fun on your next trip.

Weird News: Gas Insurance Or maybe it's a great idea! Car drivers in Germany can now insure themselves against rising gas prices. For £ 13.80 (\$25.50) per year, an insurance company now offers a policy against gas prices rising by more than 15 percent. If the price for the chosen type of gas does go up more than that, the company will cover the difference in cost. It will pay the price difference for up to 2000 litres (520 gal.), writes Bild newspaper. Or maybe they should just buy motorcycles? Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish aim-ncom.com

## Remember this motto to live by:

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body on a clean bike, but rather to ride in at full tilt boogie, skid to a stop sideways on bald tires on a filthy Harley, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming... "What a great f\*\*king ride!"

## J & B's

### Pub-N-Grill

Get a **FREE** tap beer with purchase of a sandwich until 6 pm

### Friday Fish Fry

### OPEN JAM

every Tuesday 9-12

### Ladies 2 for 1

Tuesdays 10-12

### KARAOKE

Fridays 9-1

POOL TABLES

DARTS

GOLDEN TEE

and MUCH MORE!!

**Buy one Fish Fry get second for half price**

604 S. 64th Street  
Milwaukee, WI

414-475-5828

**BONER AGAIN**  
Home of the Ride for Wishes and Mosquito Fest  
Noon til close  
Tuesday thru Sunday  
Closed Mondays  
Free Pool Wednesdays  
Adult Entertainment on weekends  
(715) 886-4366  
4 miles south of Rainbow Casino  
Nekoosa, WI  
General Weirdness Free of Charge

**FOLEY'S**  
**NITA BREW**  
PUB & GRILL  
616 Market Street  
Nekoosa, Wisconsin 54437  
1-715-886-3345  
Open 7 days a week

**Big Todd's Rumble Inn**  
1109 Park Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 341-9669  
Todd & Mary Barden  
Owners  
Cell (715) 498-2237

**Jimmers Place**  
MON-THUR 2PM TO CLOSE  
FRI-SUN 11AM TO CLOSE  
**ON THE STRIP**  
DOWNTOWN  
DALE, WI  
920-779-6679