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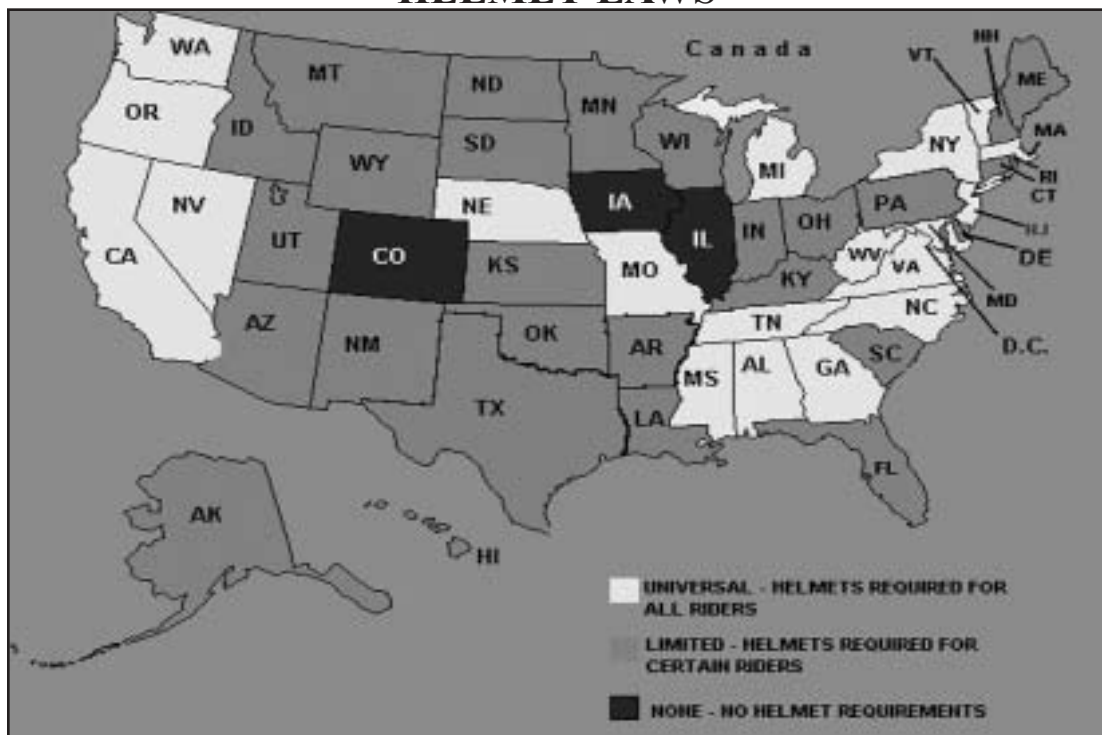
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HELMET LAWS



SENATE BILL S 223 Signed Into Law

Last week members of ABATE of WISCONSIN, Inc. at the invitation of Governor Doyle's office were present to witness the signing of S 223 into law. ABATE Legislative Chairman, Dave Dwyer, stated "when the Governor signed this bill he declared motorcyclists were once again free to ride their motorcycles in accordance with Wisconsin State law without fear of being denied the ability to be compensated for their injuries simply because they were not wearing a helmet". This bill effectively reverses the decision of the Wisconsin Supreme Court announced during the summer of 2002 that a jury could reduce the amount of damages due a person from a head injury sustained in a crash involving a "high speed open air vehicle by up to 100 percent". In effect creating a de-facto helmet law. This law not only protects the motorcyclists of Wisconsin, but also ATV riders, snowmobile operators, and anyone else operating a "high speed open air motor vehicle". Also in attendance were Attorney's Mike Hupy and Joe Weigel, along with representatives from Accident Scene Management, who played key roles in drafting and getting this legislation passed. ABATE Public Relations Director, Kirk "Hardtail" Willard, said "this a culmination of a two year effort by many members of the motorcycling community and the legal community to reverse a decision where motorcyclists obeying the law and having paid for insurance could have been denied coverage without even knowing it.

This effort was strongly supported by Co-Sponsors Senator Zien and Assemblyman Dan Vrakis to prevent discrimination against motorcyclists by courts and insurance companies. ABATE of Wisconsin, Inc. has been in existence for 30 years. We are a motorcycle rights and safety organization dedicated to "Freedom of the Road". ABATE of Wisconsin's goal is to give the motorcyclist of Wisconsin a strong, united voice with regard to their future, their way of life, their safety, and their legal rights as motorcyclists and citizens. ABATE of Wisconsin is open to anyone interested in supporting our principles and ideas, regardless of age, sex, way of life or type of motorcycle used.

I guess you could call me an old timer. I bought my first bike 40 years ago, it was a homemade outfit with a one cylinder kickstart motor. I have never been without a bike since that time. I have tried a few different bikes through the years but have always returned to the Harleys. I guess you could say it runs in the family. Back in the 1930's my grandpa picked up a Harley JD and built his own sidehack. The small town newspaper interviewed my grandma and asked her if it was exciting riding in the sidecar she said " its alright in the summer but not so much fun in the winter when it's only 10 degrees and you have a baby in your arms and a 2 year old at your feet, especially when these dirt roads ice over ". My dad and uncles road Harleys as do a lot of my cousins. My wife and 4 sons and 2 of my daughter in laws and my son in law all have their own Harleys Along with my brother and his son. I myself own 3 Harleys. I am not bragging or trying to impress any one I just want the readers to know that when I put my opinion out there I am not just talking out my ass.

I would just like to comment on the use of the words yuppie and RUB. I know I am guilty of it too, but it seems to me that we need to give everyone a chance. Back in the 60's there weren't that many bikes on the road, but the guys who were in the wind were called bikers and there was a brotherhood between all of them, no matter what kind of bike they were riding. If you were broke down on the side of the road you could be sure that the first biker that came along would stop and do what ever he could to help. Or if you were in a bar with your back against the wall and a bunch of suits giving you shit you could always count on any other bikers in the place to back you up.

It seems to me that we have lost a lot of the true brotherhood. When I see some 30 year old Harley rider who has only owned his bike for a little over a year, giving a rash of shit to some 60 year old guy about riding a Gold Wing even though the guy has been riding for 30 years, it pisses me off. I really don't think it matters what you ride along as you're in the wind. Besides that the old guy on the Honda would probably stop and help a brother in trouble, where the RUB or yuppie will look the other way as he goes by and say he never saw you.

So I guess what I am saying is give everyone a chance no matter what they ride, and you old brothers try and teach the young guys what a biker really is and if you young guys don't want to be called RUB or yuppie LISTEN to what these old BIKERS have to say and pay attention. There is a SPIRIT out there called a BROTHERHOOD of BIKERS, try and be a part of this SPIRIT.

These are just some of my opinions so if you don't like my opinions feel free to write to Preacher and let him know. I am sure he will print your letters no matter what you have to say about me.

So until next time RIDE SAFE and keep the SPIRIT ALIVE
 KNUCK

Very well put!!!!

