

“Why You Should Be a Member of ABATE of Illinois”

By Bob Myers

Legislative Coordinator - ABATE OF ILLINOIS

- Is the only Motorcyclists' Rights Organization (MRO) in Illinois that lobbies local, state and national policymakers for your “Rights, Freedoms and Needs”
- Fights to keep the Cycle Rider Safety Training Program a free program. Illinois' CRSTP is one of only two state rider education programs that are free for everyone. We fight to protect it so that current and future generations will have a proper place to learn how to ride safely.
- Maintained “freedom of choice” on wearing helmets by defeating 55 mandatory helmet bills for adults and minors alike. This allows you to raise your children the way you want, without government interference. We are not anti-helmet – we are, pro-choice on the issue.
- Helped defeat the “Lead Ban Law” in regards to youth off highway vehicles. This law would have prevented the sale of youth OHVs and motorcycles.
- Prevented local units of government from banning us from riding on roads and highways that were built/maintained state or federal with funds.
- Has overridden 4 Vetoes, by various Illinois governors, of bills that help, not hurt, motorcycling- the most recent on November 10th of 2011. No other States Motorcyclists' Rights Organization (SMRO) can lay claim to that record.
- Introduced on our behalf a “Search and Seizure” law protects you from having your bike seized, torn down and returned to you in boxes after several years.
- A law that “grandfathers” off road parks and race tracks from sound ordinances was also passed at our request.
- Successfully negotiated with the Illinois State Police to stop them from performing “motorcycle only checkpoints,” effective late May 2011.
- Helped to pass a Uniform Truck Speed Bill to help keep you from getting trapped between big trucks on busy highways. (think big pieces of tire flying at 60+ mph)
- Has been successful in holding down an increase in gasoline ethanol content.
- Is the only SMRO in the country that has been asked to sit down with the state department of transportation and go through motorcycle fatality statistics to see what can be done to reduce fatalities.
- ABATE of Illinois has one of the best state level Political Action Committees in the country, we are one of only two SMROs with an active federal Political Action Committee both are well run and effective. PACs provide us with the legal means to contribute to the campaigns of motorcycle friendly candidates. This type of monetary support does two things for ABATE: it helps elect a motorcycle friendly government and provides access to the candidate or elected official.
- In Todd Vandermyde, we have one of the very best motorcyclists' rights lobbyists in the nation. Todd is an inductee in the Sturgis “Freedom Fighters Hall of Fame” for his work in motorcyclists' rights.
- On January 1, 2012 it became legal for you to proceed with caution through a red light that would not sense your motorcycle - after a wait of 120 seconds. (you still have to give right-of-way to those with the green light)
- On July 6, 2012 it became illegal for any law enforcement agency of this State or a political subdivision of this state to accept federal funds for the purpose of motorcycle only checkpoints.
- On January 1, 2013, brake lights that flash multiple times before going to steady red become legal, which will help to wake up motorists that are behind you thus helping to reduce our rear-end collisions. A big step in the name of *Safety*.
- On January 1, 2013 it will become legal to have a vertically mounted license plate.
- On January 1, 2013 “ape hangers” with hand grips to the top of the head will become legal.

There are many more reasons to join ABATE, too many to list here, but get to one of the 65 chapter meetings throughout the state and ask to see our list of bills, I like to call it “ABATE’s Resume.” It is what ABATE has worked on since 1983 - I think you will find it very interesting. (also available at www.abate-il.org)

If I seem proud it's because I am – I am a member of the strongest SMRO in the nation.

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