



The Legislative Link

A Legislative Newsletter from
ABATE of the Garden State

What is ABATE of the Garden State?

ABATE of the Garden State is a non-partisan legislative organization that represents the interests of the over 165,000 licensed motorcyclists in New Jersey.

The mission of the organization is:

- To enhance and protect motorcyclists' riding rights in New Jersey
- To enhance the common good and general welfare of New Jersey's motorcycling community by promoting education, awareness, safety concerns and to foster a general understanding by motorcyclist and motorist alike
- To make our voices heard on legislation affecting riders in New Jersey on a local, state and national level by creating a united community of motorcyclists connected through our organization
- Furthermore, we address any legislation concerning motorcyclists locally, statewide or nationally
- Finally, we will engage in charitable activities benefiting our organization, the motorcycle community and society at large

Our partners in motorcyclists' rights—the MRF and the AMA

From time to time you will hear of other organizations involved in motorcyclists' rights. The two other major organizations you may want to be aware of are the AMA (American Motorcyclist Association) and the MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation). Descriptions of each organization can be found below.

What distinguishes ABATE, AMA and MRF from each other?

The MRF and the AMA are focused on issues at a national level. They become involved in concerns at a state level, when necessary and appropriate. They are, however, more federally oriented.

Also, the AMA is involved with all types of riders, street as well as off-road, while the MRF and ABATE of the Garden State specialize in street riding matters.

ABATE of the Garden State, by comparison, works predominately at the State level.

These three organizations work together and it is not uncommon for members to belong to and support all three organizations.

The **Motorcycle Riders Foundation**, incorporated in 1987, is a membership-based, national motorcyclists' rights organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. The first motorcyclists' rights organization to establish a full-time presence in Washington, D.C., the Motorcycle Riders Foundation is the only Washington voice devoted exclusively to the street rider. The MRF established MRFPAC in the early 1990s to advocate the election of candidates who would champion the cause of rider safety and rider freedom.

The MRF is involved in federal and state legislation and regulations, motorcycling safety education, training, and public awareness. The MRF provides members and state motorcyclists' rights organizations with direction and information, and sponsors annual regional and national educational seminars for motorcyclists' rights activists, as well as publishing a bi-monthly newsletter, THE MRF REPORTS.

Since 1924, the **American Motorcyclist Association** has protected the future of motorcycling and promoted the motorcycle lifestyle. AMA members come from all walks of life, and they navigate many different routes on their journey to the same destination: freedom on two wheels. As the world's largest motorcycling organization, the AMA advocates for motorcyclists' interests in the halls of local, state and federal government, the committees of international governing organizations, and the court of public opinion.

Through member clubs, promoters and partners, the AMA sanctions more motorsports competition and motorcycle recreational events than any other organization in the world. Through its Motorcycle Hall of Fame and Museum, the AMA preserves the heritage of motorcycling for future generations. The AMA is everything motorcycle.

ABATE of New Jersey's 10 Points

Below is a list of "ABATE's 10 Points". These are items that are of importance or are of concern to New Jersey Motorcyclists. ABATE advocates for the following items:

- Increased penalties for right of way violations causing injury or death
- Fight for increased penalties for and enforcement of distracted driving violations
- Favors maximum utilization of and accountability for the motorcycle safety funding program
- Promotion of driver and rider education courses and motorcycle awareness
- Modification of handlebar height laws
- Lane splitting per task force bill
- Option to proceed at unresponsive red lights
- Increased enforcement of current covered load laws
- Legalize multiple motorcycles per parking spot
- Educated freedom of choice concerning helmet use for adults

Going forward, each issue of the newsletter will examine and explain one of these points.

Legislative Focus

The following is the list of bills that are of special and high interest to ABATE of the Garden State and to the motorcyclists of New Jersey. We will be tracking the progress of these and most likely they will be the focus of the majority of our efforts during this legislative session.

ABATE is in favor of the following bills and is ready to help in any way to get them passed. (S357, A1094), S736, (S792, A576) S139, A140. We would also like to see S808 and A803 reintroduced from the 2008/2009 Legislative Session.

In the Next Issue of the “Legislative Link” newsletter we will look at an alarming development across the nation: the definition of a motorcycle.

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