



## **A Union of Motorcyclists**

“It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once.” – David Hume

### **ABATE of California Accomplishments**

- ABATE supported the establishment and the expansion of the award-winning California Motorcycle Safety Program (CMSP), and holds a permanent seat on the CMSP Advisory Committee.
- ABATE assisted in the defeat of a proposed federal ban on sport bikes.
- ABATE has been a driving force in promoting “May as Motorcycle Awareness Month” not only at the state level but also in local cities and communities.
- ABATE’s political action arm, ABATEPAC, has trained and organized campaign volunteers to assist in the campaigns of candidates supportive of motorcyclists’ rights, which has raised the visibility and credibility of California motorcyclists with local, state and federal politicians.
- ABATE Locals are involved with fundraising endeavors for charities and those in need. Tons of food and truckloads of toys are donated each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, working in partnership with community charity organizations.
- ABATE helped to open High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to motorcycles.
- ABATE successfully challenged the San Diego Police Department over enforcement of the helmet law in Federal court. (Case # 93-0807-J (CM) May 25, 1995 Filed)
- ABATE was instrumental in Purple Heart Motorcycle License Plate approval.
- ABATE joined other MROs to lobby the insurance industry, putting an end to their “Superbike Blacklist” of high-performance bikes that they refused to insure.
- ABATE helped defeat two separate bills to outlaw “lane-splitting”.
- ABATE worked alongside virtually every national and state motorcycle rights organization and lobbied Congress aggressively to successfully repeal federal highway funding penalties against states without helmet laws.
- ABATE supported the passage of H.R. 3103 in 1996, which prohibits discrimination against motorcyclists in health care availability and affordability.
- ABATE was the driving force that prevented helmet law violations from being assessed against the driver’s license as a moving violation.
- ABATE worked on the passage of (AB1515 & SB2084) – Veteran’s License Plates for Motorcycles. Both Bills approved by Governor Gray Davis in 2000. AB1515 - Chapter 859, SB2084 – Chapter 861.
- ABATE was instrumental in the passage of the motorcycle Handlebar Height modification bill (AB2844), Vehicle Code 27801 Section 1 (a), (b). Chapter 280. Approved by Governor Schwarzenegger August 23, 2004.
- ABATE lobbied aggressively to increase the penalties on ROW violations. (SB1021) Approved by Governor Schwarzenegger September 30, 2006. Chapter 898.
- ABATE lobbied aggressively to repeal Section 2140.5 V.C. (Traffic-actuated, signals for bicycles & motorcycles) (AB1581) Approved by Governor Schwarzenegger October 8, 2007, Chapter 337.
- AB 1205 – Dan Logue; 2/2009 Bill Introduced to modify the existing Mandatory Helmet Law; ABATE supported, bill failed to get out of Transportation Committee (2/2010).

- AB 882 – Jean Fuller; Introduced a bill to post Victim Memorial Signs on Highways; ABATE supported; Bill passed both the Assembly and Senate floors; Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the bill October 2009.
- SB 435 – Pavley – Smog Check Bill for Motorcycles; Introduced in 2009, amended 8 times by ABATE’s continuous lobbying efforts; The last amendment finally reduced it to a “noise bill” and it was signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on September 28, 2010; Chapter 407. Law effective beginning January 2013.
- February 2010 – Between ABATE members John Del Santo, Jean Hughes, James Lombardo Sr., Cal Trans, and others (along with years of correspondence); Changeable Message Boards on Freeways throughout the State of California are now being used to alert drivers to “Share the Road, Look Twice for Motorcyclists” especially during the month of May to correspond with Motorcycle Awareness Month.
- AB 1848 – Martin Garrick – Motorcycle Theft tools; ABATE supported this bill to close loopholes; Amends Section 466.65 of the Penal Code. Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger July 19, 2010.
- AB 1952 – Niello; Amends VC 12509 and adds 12509.5 relating to motorcycle instruction permits. ABATE supported. Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger September 20, 2010.
- AB 695 – Chris Norby – Bill to amend Mandatory Helmet Law introduced 2/2011; 4/25/11 bill was granted reconsideration; Amended 1/2012; passage failed in Trans. Committee 1/9/12 in spite of ABATE’s lobbying efforts and enormous rider support.
- AB 1890 – Jose` Solorio – Revised mandatory placement location of transponders on motorcycles using toll roads and highways. Bill signed by Governor Jerry Brown July 10, 2012. Amends Section 23302 V.C.
- AB 1047 – Kevin Jeffries – Forbids “motorcycle only” checkpoints – ABATE supported; Bill signed by Governor Jerry Brown July 13, 2012. Amends Section 2814.1 V.C.
- AB 1535 – Linda Halderman – Installation of “Motorcycle OK” signs in HOV lanes. Introduced January 24, 2012. (Bill is being held under submission). Bill “died”.
- 2013 - Off-Road Vehicles aka Side x Sides/Recreational Off-highway Vehicles (ROV’s). Several bills were introduced; AB64-Donnelly; SB334 Fuller and SB234 Walters; concerning after-market modifications and rules of same. ABATE aggressively pursued the passage of these 3 bills. **SB234** Walters bill was ultimately passed and signed by Governor Jerry Brown. SB234 amends Vehicle Code Sections 38603 and 38604. This bill took effect immediately as an urgency statute; Chaptered 179, August 27, 2013 and immediately “Grand-Fathered” in existing modifications that had previously been modified to Side X Sides & ROV’s.
- **AB 988** – Brian Jones – Adds all-terrain vehicles (ATV) & ROV’s to be under the jurisdiction of the New Motor Vehicle Board – grievances to be handled by a non-binding arbitration hearing vs. an attorney. Amends VC Sections 111, 3001 & 3003; Signed by Governor Jerry Brown & Chaptered (279) August 25, 2014,
- 2014 – Off Road Bill **AB1835**-Olsen (Side x Sides) Original bill amended to remove mandated helmet use on PRIVATE Land. Amends Section 38601 VC. Signed by Governor Brown 9/16/2014. Chapter 355.

For off-road vehicle information - contact [Nick@abate.org](mailto:Nick@abate.org) or [Dave@abate.org](mailto:Dave@abate.org)

**2015** These are bills that concerned motorcyclist’s and ABATE of California worked on:

- **AB8** (Gatto) – Hit & Run message boards (Approved by Governor Jerry Brown 9/28/15, Chaptered 326 Statutes of 2015);
- **AB51** (Quirk) – Lane Sharing/Splitting (2-yr bill now);
- **AB334** (Cooley) – Anti-Profiling (died in committee);
- **AB346** (Wilk) – Identity (*Unobstructed view of full face for examination*) Chaptered & Signed by Governor Jerry Brown 7/14/2015.
- **SB350** (DeLeon/Leno) Pollution/exhaust reduction). An act to add Section 44258.5 to the Health and Safety Code, to amend Section 1720 of the Labor Code, to amend Sections 25310 and 25943 of, and to add Sections 25302.2 and 25327 to, the Public Resources Code, and to amend Sections 359, 399.4, 399.11, 399.12, 399.13, 399.15, 399.16, 399.18, 399.21, 399.30, 454.55, 454.56, 701.1, 740.8, 9505, and 9620 of, to amend and repeal Sections 337 and 352

of, to add Sections 237.5, 365.2, 366.3, 454.51, 454.52, 740.12, 9621, and 9622 to, to add Article 17 (commencing with Section 400) to Chapter 2.3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of, to add and repeal Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 359.5) of Chapter 2.3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of, and to (continued from page 2) repeal Article 5 (commencing with Section 359) of Chapter 2.3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of, the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.  
Signed by Governor Jerry Brown October 7, 2015. Chapter 547

**2016 Bills:**

- **AB 51** –Assembly members Bill Quirk & Tom Lackey Authors, and Co-author – Kansen Chu; Lane Splitting; The passage of this bill authorizes the Dept. of California Highway Patrol to develop educational guidelines relating to lane splitting. ABATE Supported. August 19, 2016 AB51 was signed by Governor Jerry Brown; Chapter 141 adding section 21658.1 to the Vehicle code.
- **AB 1932** – Assembly member Jay Obernolte, author. Licensed Traffic Violator School (TVS). Motorcyclist’s given a citation while riding a motorcycle will now have the option of which type of TVS course to complete. Bill was introduced February 2016, signed by Governor Jerry Brown September 24, 2016. Chapter 561, adds section 11223 to the Vehicle code. ABATE of California supported.

For complete context on any of the above numbered bills (prior to 1999) please go to [www.Leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.Leginfo.ca.gov)  
For bills introduced from 2000 forward –lease go to <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>

ABATE Of California supports motorcycle rider training programs and asks that all users ride responsibly.

ABATE Of California is dedicated to “Freedom of the Road” for all motorcyclists, both on and off-road.

American **B**rotherhood **A**imed **T**owards **E**ducation (Acronym – **ABATE**)  
[www.abate.org](http://www.abate.org)

(Updated 12/19/2016)