

2015 April Legislative Newsletter Report

Legislative Day was a pretty good event we had from 30 chapters making the trip to Springfield.

I had many members tell me that this was the largest reception ever. We had Madd Maxx stand in the doorway and announce by microphone the legislators by their names when they entered the room. This was a big hit with them as all our members would applaud them. We had over 87 elected officials check in and there were those that didn't check in or even get their FREE bike raffle ticket. All had a good time and all their staff that came over told me our event is the most fun of any that they have attended. Who doesn't like a group of fun loving bikers!!

We even had a visit from the Governor and Lt. Governor and the Governor took the microphone for a few words to his organization. This was history making for us as this was the first time we had a Governor attend our Legislative Day Reception.

Another first for us was when some of us had a meeting with him the next morning over our concerns on the Off-Road Park we are working on and the CRSTP Fund and the OHV grant funds.

Back to our event, our main let down was the absence of members when the legislators were looking for them. It was embarrassing not only to me but to the members that attended. They tried to fill in for those not there and they were doing a good job at it but it isn't the same as having their "constituents" in the building. More on this at the next BOD meeting.

Our issues we are pushing this year are:

ABATE of Illinois SUPPORTS HB3626, John Bradly - Synopsis As Introduced:

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that a person commits reckless driving if he or she intentionally drives any vehicle so as to force another vehicle from the road.

We are in the process of having this bill re-worded to fit the meaning of what we are asking for.

ABATE of Illinois SUPPORTs HB3538 - Short Description: GAMING-POKER RUNS - Keith Wheeler-
Synopsis as Introduced:

Amends the Raffles and Poker Runs Act. Redefines "poker run". Allows bona fide not-for-profit organizations to be licensed to hold poker runs. Provides that the governing body of any county shall (rather than may) establish a system for the licensing of organizations to operate poker runs. Makes changes concerning which organizations shall be issued poker run licenses under the Act and the purposes for these licenses. Removes the requirement that poker runs by an organization be under the supervision of a single manager designated by the organization and associated bond requirements. Makes changes in provisions concerning records. Makes other changes. Effective immediately.

New Poker Run Language This bill will make it easier for county governments to understand the language and allows not for profit organization/clubs to do poker runs to make themselves financially fit in order to do poker runs for Charities. This bill just makes it easier for not-for-profit clubs/organizations to help people who are in need of a helping hand and Charities such as March of Dimes, Shriners, St. Jude's and other national and municipal charities such as local food banks, shelters for battered women, "Special Olympics" and other civic organizations. This is what Bikers do best – Helping those in need.

ABATE of Illinois SUPPORTS HB3944 - Short Description: VEH CD-MOTORCYCLE ACCENT LIGHT - [Thomas Bennett](#) - [Bill Mitchell](#) - [Anthony DeLuca](#) -

Synopsis as Introduced:

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that a motorcycle may be equipped with auxiliary accent lights, including standard bulb running lights and light emitting diode pods and strips. Provides that the auxiliary accent lights shall not be red or white or oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights. Defines "auxiliary accent light".

Accent lighting are the small colored lights tucked in on the underside of motorcycle gas tanks and frames. We are looking at legalizing them to be operating while the bike is in motion. They do not interfere with operator eyesight and will actually help in the reduction of bikers being "T-Boned" at night with the extra lighting which will reduce Fatalities and Deaths. The bill increases visibility of motorcycles, especially at night.

Unlike automobiles and light trucks which are required to have side marker lights or wrap around headlights / tail lights which are visible from the side, motorcycle lights are often only visible from the front and rear and do not have the same illumination as automobiles;

NHTSA published a report on the effectiveness of side marker lights on motor vehicles. The report concluded that side marker lights are a cost effective safety device which reduce the number of nighttime angular collisions that occur in the United States.

Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, have passed similar legislation and motorcyclists from those states are currently riding on Illinois roads with similar lighting. It makes sense to give Illinois motorcyclists the same safety tools that out of state riders already use in other states. Illinois had a 22% drop in motorcycle fatalities in 2014 when compared to 2013 fatalities and we feel this will be another way to drop our fatalities' by being more visible at night.

ABATE of Illinois SUPPORTS HB4105 - Short Description: VEH CD-BLUE DOT TAIL LIGHTS - Rep. [Katherine Cloonen](#) - [Anthony DeLuca](#) - Synopsis As Introduced:

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that motorcycles may be equipped with a blue light or lights located on the rear of the motorcycle as a part of the motorcycle's rear stop lamp or lamps.

Section 12-208 of this Act.

(a-1)

A motorcycle or an ~~An~~ antique vehicle or an expanded-use antique vehicle, including an antique motorcycle, may display a blue light or lights of up to one inch in diameter as part of the vehicle's rear stop lamp or lamps.

"Blue Dot" Tail Light Lens: This bill will legalize customizing with "Blue Dot" tail light lens. It is a small dime sized area in the tail light lens that has a blue plastic area that bikers like to use as a personal taste, much like vertical license plates, handlebars that are head high to the operator, or a different color of paint that came on the bike originally. They do not interfere with the braking or visibility of a motorcycle.

BILLS WE OPPOSE:

ABATE of Illinois OPPOSES HB3378 - Short Description: USE/OCC TX-GASOHOL - Rep. Jerry F. Costello, II - Donald L. Moffitt - Robert W. Pritchard – SYNOPSIS AS

INTRODUCED: *Amends the Use Tax Act, the Service Use Tax Act, the Service Occupation Tax Act, and the Retailers' Occupation Tax Act. Provides that, on or after July 1, 2015 and on or before December 31, 2018, the taxes imposed under the Acts apply to 90% of the proceeds of sales of gasohol and 80% of the proceeds of sales of mid-range ethanol blends. Amends the Illinois Renewable Fuels Development Program Act. Provides that grants may be awarded for the following programs: a next generation renewable fuels program, a majority blended ethanol and blender pump infrastructure program, and a research and development program for sustainable corn production and corn-based renewable fuel production. Sets forth the maximum aggregate amount of grants that may be awarded under each program.*

What this bill will do is to move ½ of the tax incentive that is on E-10 over to the "Research and Development" of other mid-level blends of ethanol such as E-20, E-30, and E-50.

Fuels that will never be needed and the only vehicles that can run them are the "FLEX FUEL" cars and trucks (E-85) and they have their own fuel. This bill will also help fund the installation of "Blending Pumps" which we as a community are against as there will be a residual 3 gals of the last fuel purchased in the line. You may be wanting premium octane fuel (91-93 octane) but will get 3 gallons of the last fuel purchased before you get what you are paying for.

Having us and the rest of the tax paying community pay for Research and Development of a Multi-Billion dollar industry, *that neither us nor anyone else wants*, is just plain crazy and there is nothing that can use it.

They need to take lessons from ABATE of Illinois. When we wanted a free Cycle Rider Safety Training Program (CRSTP) we didn't "whine" and "belly ache" to the Illinois General Assembly, we asked that it be funded from us for us and for our future riders in Illinois.

This is a multi-billion dollar industry verses a GRASS ROOTS organization. We have kept them down since 2011 and we will continue to keep them. **We still want the "Comprehensive" and Independent" testing of E-15 as called for in Congressional Bill H.R.0021**

ABATE of Illinois OPPOSES SB1948 Short Description: USE/OCC TX-GASOHOL - Sen. Andy Manar and John M. Sullivan. *This is the same bill as the above HB3378*

Our 25th annual Awareness and Safety Rally is APRIL 26th and YES, you may ride your 4-wheeler in the parade. If you get to the IDOT parking lot on Dirksen Pkwy early enough we can get transportation lined up for you to drop your OHV's off at IDOT parking lot then drive your trucks/trailers over to the North Stratton building and we will have you a ride back over to the IDOT parking lot – and NO you can't ride

your ohv's back to the IDOT parking lot. If your legislator is a biker/off-roader invite them to our event and we will get them in the front of the parade. Print off the flier and give it to them.

OFF-ROAD Issues. Still working on the Off-Road Park we have been promised. We had a meeting with Governor Rauner Thursday morning on March 5th and explained to him the past 3 years we have went through with the SB1566, IDNR Sustainability Act and looking with the state for a park area. HunterJohn went to the AMA Dist. 17 meeting and they had a good meeting and he found out none of those AMA members, except for 1, wanted the "Lane Splitting" in this state either. Learn more on this at the APRIL 25th BOD meeting. Yes we moved the BOD back 1 week so you don't have to make 2 trips to Springfield the month of April.

On the FEDERAL side we have:

H.R. 21 – Sensenbrenner (Wis) which is the same bill as last year's HR 875 which would require "Comprehensive" and "Independent" testing of E-15. **ABATE of Illinois SUPPORTS H.R. 21.**

H.R. 1861 – Is a bill identical to the 113th Congress H.R.1861 and by the same congressman, James Sensenbrenner (Wi). This bill is a sister bill to the below US Senate bill S. 127.

S. 127: Stop Motorcycle Checkpoint Funding Act - Jeanne Shaheen - Ayotte, Kelly - Collins, Susan - Johnson, Ron - Manchin, Joe

This bill would make it illegal for the Sec. of the Dept. of Transportation to provide states with FEDERAL Tax dollars for the purpose of motorcycle only checkpoints.

The following link will give you contact info for all 18 of our Congressmen and both US Senators. Use it and save it in your computer so that you always have it: <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/cgi-bin/newseek.cgi?site=ctc2011&state=il>

D.C. Trip

Those federal bills and any other federal bills that pop up is what the DC Trip members will work on. We all need to start calling our congressmen (women) and ask them to co-sponsor these bills and make it easier on our members going to D.C.

Our DC Trip will leave on April 26th and return on May 2nd.

I pray for some great weather for our "Awareness and Safety Rally" and also to see Thousands of you out in the crowd

Ride Safe

Bob