

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

THINGS TO KNOW

If you've even been in an auto accident, you might know what it's like to have the police check the other person's paper insurance card, only to find out later, the card was not valid and the other person actually had no insurance

NEW BILLS FOR "REAL-TIME" CHECK
OF VEHICLE INSURANCE; HB4622 &
HB4623.

at all. Two bills, sponsored by ABATE Region 11 state Representative Pete Lucido, would keep that from happening. Under HB 4622, when making any traffic stops, or performing accident site duties, police officers would be able to access a database to see if the vehicle is insured. If the vehicle is not insured, HB4623 provides for the immediate cancelation of the vehicle's registration. By being able to access a database of current vehicles

covered by insurance, drivers/riders won't have any need to carry around proof of insurance cards, or having to hand over your phone to a police officer so he can view your electronic version. Additionally, when people decide to drive around without insurance, and then crash into others, their registrations on the vehicles they are driving will be immediately canceled. Those folks will also no longer be able to "fake" their way out of driving without insurance penalties, either.

For anyone who is a smoker, there is a new bill that would increase cigarette and e-cigarette taxes by \$1.50.

HB4578 – Yanez – increases state tax on cigarettes & e-cigarettes by \$1.50 for a total state tax of \$3.50 per pack. This is in addition to the \$1.01 federal tax. This bill is currently in the House Regulatory Reform Committee.

NEW MCCA LEGISLATION

SB240 & SB241, sponsored by Democrat Steve Beida. SB240 Revises membership of catastrophic claims association, requires annual audit, subjects to open meetings act and freedom of information act, and provide general amendments. SB241 Makes catastrophic claims associations subject to open meetings act. Both bills have been referred to the Senate Insurance Committee, so we need to pressure this committee to get these bills out to the Senate floor for a full vote. You can contact the Senate Insurance Committee through this link: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/insurance.html>

NOTE: House companion bills are: HB4354 – Yanez (yearly audit) & HB4353 – Hammoud (open meetings act). Both bills referred to House Insurance Committee:

<http://www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/standingcommittee.aspx>

As of June 2, 2017, there have been no changes to these MCCA bills.

If you're sick of the vehicle registration lines at the Secretary of State office, HB4663 could alleviate that yearly circus. The bill is sponsored by Steven Johnson, and would provide for a 2-year vehicle registration. This

bill is currently in the House Transportation & Infrastructure committee.

ABATE LEGISLATION

HB4306 – Tedder - Motorcycle Awareness: Bill would increase new motorcycle endorsement fee from \$13.50 to \$16 and renewals of motorcycle endorsement from \$5 to \$7. The bill also increases motorcycle registration fees from \$23, to \$26, and creates a new MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS FUND, to which \$2.50 of each new endorsement, and \$2 from each renewed endorsement would be ear marked to fund public service messages of LOOK TWICE & SAVE A LIFE! The \$3 increase in the motorcycle registration fee would be earmarked for the Motorcycle Safety program which provides for the rider skill

revisions while in committee, to solidify the language so that the funds are earmarked appropriately.

SB0046 – Zorn – Removes the requirement for emergency vehicles to have flashing lights on the roof of the vehicle. Flashing lights are still required, they just don't have to be on the roof. This bill passed both House & Senate, and is expected to be signed by the Governor on 5.25.17. Be aware, this new law may mean an increase in the number of police cars with no visible lights on the roof, making them a little bit harder to spot in those speed traps!

DON'T FORGET! MCCA ASSESSMENT INCREASES TO \$170 PER INSURED VEHICLE, ON JULY 1, 2017. CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES & DEMAND AN ACCOUNTING OF THIS FUND, & PASSAGE OF BILLS (SEE BOX ABOVE) REQUIRING FULL PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY!

courses offered at local community colleges. Currently \$3 of every motorcycle registration fee is earmarked for that fund, so this bill would increase that contribution to \$6 per registration. The bill is co-sponsored by both Democrats & Republicans. As of the date of this newsletter, the Bill has passed out of the House Transportation Committee, and has been placed on a third reading of the full House. There were three

ABATE, Region 11 will host State Representative Steven Marino, District 24 (Harrison Twp.) at our next members meeting, June 28, 2017, at 7pm out at Total Sports; I-94/Mt. Clemens exit. Everyone is welcome, so please come out to ask questions of this representative, and to see where he stands on motorcycle issues.

Find bill status and additional information on all bills/legislation at:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(m1tx1t0csb10rrutu1viglwx\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=Home?page=Bills](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(m1tx1t0csb10rrutu1viglwx))/mileg.aspx?page=Home?page=Bills)

