

Legislative Review for June 2019

We have as # 1 on our "issues" list, of course, is **Insurance Reform**. We have talked about this issue with several Legislators and interested parties including the people representing the doctors & hospitals (CPAN), the group representing lawyers, and most recently my former State Senator Dave Knezek from the Attorney General's office.

Their conclusion is that this is NOT a totally "done deal", there is room for amendments & possible changes. We will be meeting with these people along with Senators Dale Zorn, Ruth Johnson, & Jon Bumstead, several state Reps & others to negotiate to get motorcyclists in a more realistic position.

Dondi Vesprini is working on a new paper to justify our coverage concerns & that will be available on our website in a week or so. We still really don't have a good understanding as to what's in the legislation and the total effect but so far, it doesn't look good for ANYONE let alone motorcycle riders.

Among the newest "agenda items" for the foreseeable future are three additional legislative actions that we will be working on:

- 1.) A new piece of legislation we want to call "**The Equal Justice/Danny Yensch Bill**". When a FATAL accident occurs, many times individuals are killed with little or no consequences to the person causing the fatality. A Prosecuting Attorney may, and HAS stated, that the VICTIM "was not wearing a helmet" which justifies to that attorney that a lower penalty was justified. We want to require jail time or community service along with specific fines. We have spoken with several legislators or their offices about sponsoring this.
- 2.) A bill to allow for "**Filtering**" by motorcyclists when traffic is at a standstill such as a construction zone or stoplight. A rider would be less susceptible to being hit from behind at the back of a line of traffic. This is not to be confused with "**Lane Splitting**" which is allowed under certain speed limitations and is allowed in several states and is often abused.
- 3.) A bill to set up a private "**Motorcycle Advisory Board/Committee**" consisting of a prescribed number of members made up of motorcycle riders active in the community, motorcycle dealers, concerned riders, and legislators. This will be set up along the lines of the "Snowmobile Advisory Board" and other such committees that already exist.

The summer break is here so things in Lansing will be slowing down, at least in appearances. Things will be worked on behind the scenes throughout the summer and we have to move to be relevant.

Our "Freedom Rally" on June 5th was sparsely attended with about 125 or so riders braving terrible early weather. The weather ended up being pretty good later in the day. Several Legislators were in attendance although not as many as usual. Both parties had "caucuses" away from the Capitol, which happens!

A number of people ended up at the "Survivors" club house for some "refreshments". Thanks to "Doc" and the Survivors M/C & President, "Clean".

We will have Bill #'s and arguments during the summer so you can reach out to your local legislators for their support prior to them coming back in the fall. Call their offices to get copies of the new "Citizen's Guide" or call me and I can mail you a copy. Use it to get fired up! The time to act is NOW.

Jim Rhoades, Legislative Officer.