

HB-4306 – A FEE to Fund Motorcycle Awareness & Riders Ed **SB-160 Autocycles Plated as Motorcycles**

As most of you are aware, ABATE has successfully worked for years to keep motorcycle plates out of the increases that that have plagued car registrations. Our plates have been at \$23.00 for a very long time because of our efforts while your car plates are in the \$200 plus range.

It has been our contention that ALL plates are too high and that increases in OUR “tags” should be used for promoting motorcycle awareness and education and these items should be paid for by riders. So with this in mind Rep. Jim Tedder introduced **HB-4306** which includes fees to FUND motorcycle related programs. These increases go directly to motorcycle safety issues.

These FEES are not a tax as some legislators contend. They include a \$2.00 increase on your yearly plate (from \$23 to \$25) going directly to awareness. There will be a \$2.50 fee increase on an original (one time) cycle endorsement and a \$2.00 fee increase on your endorsement renewal or \$.50 - fifty cents - per year. This money goes directly to riders education.

In the new bill is a stipulation that the state will include in their billboards and ads promoting motorcycle awareness, a “**Look Twice –Save a Life**” program. You may remember the fiasco of “Ride Safe to Ride Again” which bureaucrats in the Dept. of State threw out and was paid for with tax dollars.

We need you to call your State Representative in Lansing and ask them to support this bill – **HB-4306**. We have included a list of legislators phone numbers and e-mail addresses for you to reference. We need this done this week as we are trying to have a vote on the 20th. As a reminder, there is a “legislative day” scheduled for Wednesday, April 18 meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the House Office Building cafeteria across from the Capitol.

There is also a Senate Bill, **SB-160** that we are working on that has to do with “Autocycles”.

Presently “autocycles” are a 3-wheeled sub group designated as motorcycles. Polaris introduced the “Spyder” which has three wheels and therefore is classified as a MOTORCYCLE under Michigan law. It also has side by side seating, seat belts, a steering wheel, a gas pedal and other car things but no air bags. As Harley Dealer Ray C. expressed to us, “the only thing motorcycle about this thing is the plate!”

Vince, Butch, and I attended the hearings and met with Polaris, Michigan Dept. of State, the State Police, and Senator Casperson. We don’t plan to spend a lot of “political capitol” on this but we are working on some compromises which the state has reluctantly agreed to capitulate with us on. It’s hard moving an almost immovable object like the bureaucracy!

We suggested that they simply redefine “**autocycle**” and separate them from motorcycles **OR** that they require all purchasers of these to get a motorcycle endorsement since they are classified as such, **OR** be required to take a special “autocycle” test which Vince Consiglio has agreed to write.

We have been told by the Dept. of State that they “**can’t**” re-write the autocycle classification, which would be the easiest solution. We reminded them that, back when we had a mandatory helmet law, we insisted that the “meter maids” in their **autocycles** should have to wear helmets, which they were forced to do since there are classified as motorcycles.

At that time the Dept. of State **re-wrote** autocycles so the operators did not have to wear helmets. HMMMM, didn’t you guys just tell us that you could not re-write the definition!!!

So, anyway, this is an ongoing issue and I will have more for you later. Later, Jim Rhoades