



» **TOP STORY** 3/9/11

ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s "Stiffer Penalties" Bill is On Its Way...

The Senate version of our "stiffer penalties" Bill, SB 608, has just passed it's first committee 5 to 1. James "Doc" Reichenback, II, ABATE of Florida's Lobbyist, spoke before the Transportation Committee before the members voted to refer our Bill on to the next committee.

The next committee it must pass is the Criminal Justice Committee. The members of this committee are as follows:

- Sen. Greg Evers - Chair (Our Bill's Sponsor), covering northwest panhandle area.
- Sen. Charlie Dean - Vice Chair, covering north central panhandle area east of Tallahassee.
- Sen. Paula Dockery, covering parts of Hernando, Sumter, Lake, Polk, and Osceola Counties,
- Sen. Gwen Margolis, covering north coastal Miami-Dade County and little bit of south Broward.
- Sen. Chris Smith (coastal Broward and Palm Beach Counties)

As the time gets closer to this meeting, we will be sending out information for who to call and ask for their support of our Bill. Make sure to click the "Subscribe" link if you're not already directly receiving our emailed notifications...

You can check the current status of SB608 by clicking [HERE](#).

You can check the current status of HB403, the House of Representatives' version of our Bill by clicking [HERE](#)

Reinstatement of NonViolent Offenders' Voting Rights Gets Tougher

Convicted nonviolent offenders will no longer automatically get their civil rights restored after serving their sentence under a slate of changes approved this past Wednesday by the governor

FL Vertical Tag Legal Language Fix...

ABATE of Florida, Inc. has been able to add an amendment to Senate Bill (SB) 1150, the Dept. of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles' Bill. This additional language changes the current statute 316.2085(3) to *allow* a tag that is perpendicular to the ground (with the numbers reading from top to bottom) to be permanently affixed to a motorcycle. It also *removes* the requirement for a pre-paid toll transponder.

The exact language of the proposed language is (underline is new language, ~~strikethrough is deleted language~~):

316.2085 Riding on motorcycles or mopeds.—
 (3) The license tag of a motorcycle or moped must be permanently affixed to the vehicle and may not be ~~adjusted or capable of being flipped up, inverted, reversed, or in any other way rendered to make the letters of the tag illegible from the rear while the vehicle is being operated. No device for or method of concealing~~ Concealing or obscuring the legibility of the license tag of a motorcycle ~~is prohibited shall be installed or used.~~ The license tag of a motorcycle or moped may be affixed horizontally or vertically to the ground so that the numbers and letters read from left to right or from top to bottom. ~~Alternatively, a license tag for a motorcycle or moped for which the numbers and letters read from top to bottom may be affixed perpendicularly to the ground, provided that the registered owner of the motorcycle or moped maintains a prepaid toll account in good standing and a transponder associated with the prepaid toll account is affixed to the motorcycle or moped.~~

This new language is not yet in effect; but is expected to become law in July 2011.



and members of the state clemency board.

With little debate, the panel unanimously reversed changes made four years ago that had allowed offenders who had completed their sentence, probation, restitution and other requirements to more easily regain their ability to vote, qualify for certain professional licenses and other rights afforded most other citizens.

Under the new rule, nonviolent offenders whose crimes were less severe would be able to apply to get their rights back five years after completing their sentences and all other requirements, such as restitution. More serious offenders would be required to wait seven years before beginning the application process.

Offenders seeking the right to again own firearms would have to wait eight years before beginning the process. The plan also eliminates the discretion of clemency officials to waive those waiting periods. The proposal adds additional crimes for which restoration of rights would take longer or unavailable.

Mailing: ABATE of Florida, Inc., PO Box 2520, Deland, FL 32721-2520

Physical: ABATE of Florida, Inc., 332 S. Woodland Blvd., DeLand, FL

On the Web: www.abateflorida.com