



ABATE of Florida, Inc's Legislative Update v1 i4

Doc asked me to send this out to you concerning **HR 2057, Right to Repair Act**, and is asking you to contact your US Congress member to ask them to support and cosponsor this bill. Modern vehicles, including motorcycles, contain advanced technology that monitors or controls virtually every function of the vehicle including: brakes, steering, air bags, fuel delivery, ignition, lubrication, theft prevention, emission controls and soon; tire pressure. Vehicle owners and independent shops need full access to the information, parts and tools necessary to accurately diagnose, repair or re-program these systems. Vehicle manufacturers are making access to such vital information increasingly difficult to obtain for the independent aftermarket and its customers. Without access to critical information, parts and tools, motorists are forced to patronize new vehicle dealerships, which may not be convenient or easily accessible to a vehicle owner and may increase the cost of repairs which adds a financial burden onto your household

What the right to repair does:

- Reaffirms the owners' right to repair their vehicle and keep their families safe.
- Promotes consumer safety by allowing owners or their vehicles technicians' access to the computers that control the systems and components that affect the safe operation of their vehicles.
- Permits owners to choose the repair shop and the replacement parts to service and maintain their vehicles.
- Authorizes the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to promulgate regulations to protect consumers and to promote competition in vehicle maintenance and repair.

What it does not do:

- It does not take a manufacturer's intellectual property.
- It does not affect the dealer's warranty agreement with the vehicle manufacturers.
- It does not require manufacturers to disclose manufacturing processes or trade secrets.

***More information may be read at: Right to Repair Coalition: <http://snipurl.com/s4rw6>

This bill is sponsored by Representative E. Towns [NY-10] and co-sponsored by forty-one other members of the US House and is in the Committee on Energy and Commerce. It has two Florida co-sponsors, Rep. Corrine Brown and Rep. Alcee Hastings. Once again, I urge you to support and cosponsor HR 2057 in an effort to protect your ability to make timely and affordable repairs to your vehicles.

Additionally, Doc has asked me to monitor this new item:

FHWA 28-09
Monday, October 5, 2009
Contact: Doug Hecox
Tel: 202-366-0660

Federal Highway Administration Launches Major Study Into Causes of Motorcycle

Crashes

FHWA, Oklahoma State University to Partner on Critical Research Endeavor

WASHINGTON, D.C. - FHWA will conduct an ambitious new study to better understand and prevent motorcycle crashes, Administrator Victor Mendez announced today.

Despite years of steadily improving highway safety and roadway fatalities at historic lows, motorcycle riders remain one of the highest-risk groups on America's roads. Nearly 5,300 motorcycle riders died in roadway crashes in 2008, accounting for 14 percent of all traffic fatalities, and 96,000 were injured.

"Having a better understanding of what causes these crashes will help us improve roadway safety for everyone," said Administrator Mendez. "Keeping people safe on America's roads is Secretary LaHood's top priority at the Department of Transportation."

The motorcycle crash causation study will be the federal government's first major in-depth analysis of motorcycle safety in nearly three decades. A provision in the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU) requires the study, which will be conducted by the FHWA in partnership with the Oklahoma State University.

The university's Oklahoma Transportation Center is one of the U.S. Department of Transportation's 10 National University Transportation Centers, and it receives federal grants to conduct transportation research.

"OSU is delighted to be the lead research institution for this important study," said Dr. Alan Tree, associate dean for research in OSU's College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology. "We expect very significant, scientifically valid results to emerge from this work and look forward to a very positive final outcome."

Researchers will evaluate data from hundreds of motorcycle crashes to help identify common factors - including road configurations, environmental conditions and rider experience. The study's focus is to look at how these factors may be affected by countermeasures that, if effectively implemented, will prevent motorcycle crashes or lessen the harm when they occur.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration conducted a pilot study to develop the protocols for the full-scale causation research. NHTSA also was responsible for the earlier motorcycle causation study, which was completed in 1981.

Between 1997 and 2008, motorcycle rider fatalities increased from 2,116 to 5,290 - a 150 percent jump, according to U.S. Department of Transportation's Fatality Analysis Reporting System. In 2008 alone, deaths due to motorcycle crashes rose by an estimated 2.2 percent while all other vehicle classes saw reductions in fatalities.

###

Thanks,

Darrin "Scribe" Brooks,
State Legislative Trustee,
ABATE of Florida, Inc.
<http://www.abateflorida.com/>



Please forward this to your friends and ask them to add themselves to the list of concerned citizens who receive this newsletter by signing up here:
<http://lic.abateflorida.com/subscribe.htm>.

Stay tuned to updated related legislative issues by checking ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s Legislative Information Center on-line at <http://lic.abateflorida.com/>.

Subscribe to this newsletter at <http://lic.abateflorida.com/subscribe.htm>

The current copy of Scribe's Legislative Voice is available here:
<http://lic.abateflorida.com/LegVoice/v01i3.pdf>