

Did You Know?

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Lobbyist

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Lobby Report

The legislators are at it again at the Arizona Copper Dome. The legislative session for 2007 has opened and there are a lot of Bills running in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. So if you as a rider on two wheels want to make a difference, get started with being on the Call to Action list. Check the MMA-Az.org website for instructions and join in the push to keep our freedoms. You don't have to be a member of the MMA to join in and be proactive. But if you are on two wheels, you need to do something different and better.

As of today we only have two bills that we are going to ask your help on. Stay tuned for the information on the Right of Way violation legislation, it is still being worked on. The first is HB2051 which removes the cap of \$150,000 of our State Motorcycle Safety Fund. We were stopped last year in the Senate Appropriations Committee for various reasons. This year we are going to move it through with your help. As most of you know, you pay an extra \$1.00 in your motorcycle registrations. This money goes into a fund that is supposed to be spent on motorcycle safety and awareness. Call your three representatives and ask them to vote in their committees for this legislation. This is motorcyclist's money and we want to be able to preserve it for the intended use. Call your reps to vote on this legislation. Join the Call to Action list and be proactive.

The next legislation that we are interested in passing is SB1161. This bill allows motorcyclists to ride the 5 freeways that have HOV lanes without a passenger at any time. In reality we should and are able to ride this lane, but this bill puts motorcycles in the Arizona statutes. Ask the three riders that were ticketed a few months ago.

For those of you that do not know who your three representatives are, I have some help in that realm. First you need to know that you have one Senator and two members of the House of Representatives in each of the 30 districts in the state. You may either call or email me, and I will look it up for you, or you can go online to find out. Here is how to do it; Google or search, Arizona State Legislature. This will take you to a page, click on Arizona State Legislature. This will take you to the state home web page. From there you can search for your district, legislators, bills by number, key words or phrase. Click on Bills and this will take you to a page where you can either go in or search for words or phrase. You could type in motorcycle and it would show everything legislatively that would include this key word. You could search for the word helmet, to see if there was anything that was going to be done legislatively with helmets. Or you can type in the Bill

number and it will take you there.

To search for your district, click on How to find legislators on the home page. That will take you to a page that says "if you know your legislator click #1", "if not click on #2". You then put in your address and zip code on the top right side of the page, and click find. This will show your U.S. Congressional District number, and below that is a line that says State Legislative District number. If you click on the appropriate line it will show you what you need to know. With that information you can go to the Arizona member page and look up your three reps. Included is their phone numbers, emails, etc. Also there is a section in the middle of the page that says "request to speak". You can sign up from home to speak, or just comment on the legislation. You can also say that you do not want to speak, but that you are FOR this legislation, or AGAINST it. You can help us from the comfort of your home. Can you imagine if we get 150 people that do this on the day the legislation is in a committee?

Call or email all three of your legislators. Let them know that you live in their district and that you are interested in knowing how they are voting. Let them know that you have an interest in their yes vote for HB2051 and for SB1161. Let them know that you want this legislation to move quickly through the necessary committees and let them know that you appreciate all that they can do to move this legislation. Ask them to call you about it, or ask them if they could have their assistant call about the progress of this legislation. Some of them will follow up with you if you ask them to. Be very nice and professional to them, and remind them that you do live in their district. They may live in your immediate neighborhood; after all they do live in your district.

Recently there was legislation introduced by Senator Linda Gray, to eliminate emissions testing in Maricopa County. I think the legislation is SB1365. Now most of you know we are not pursuing this legislation this year as we are working with Maricopa Area Governments (MAG) and Department of Environment Quality (DEQ). Right now it is not a good time to run this legislation, but we may run it next year. My point in telling you this is that a person in the Legislative District called his Senator to run legislation, and she did it. That easy!!!. In reality that is all it took. Now unfortunately this senator was not quite up to speed on what we are doing. She also didn't bother to call us and of course the person that lives in the senator's district does not belong to either of the MRO's. This person is not current on what is going on in the world of motorcycling and rights. But you can see how easy it is for these legislators to work for you. Try it, you'll like it.

Watch for the billboards and listen for the radio ads that you paid for. They will be up and going by the end of March. I will have more about that in the next edition.

Ride Safe, Informed, and well trained.

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