HB-4651 – Bullet Points for Supporting Legislation to Increase the Fine for Unendorsed Motorcycle Riders in Michigan

Each year over the past 25 years over **40% of fatal motorcycle** accidents involve **unendorsed riders**. In 2013 that figure was 58% meaning that 3 out of 5 motorcycle rider fatalities involved an UNENDORSED rider who was thus riding illegally, like a car driver without a license.

In recent years the state has sent literature to the unendorsed or "shadow riders" encouraging them to get an endorsement. This program has been effective in reducing the number of unlicensed riders back down to the 40%. The real concern is that the Michigan number is still substantially higher than the **national average of 25%** of fatal accidents involving unendorsed riders.

The fine for an unlicensed CAR driver is up to $500 while it is between $125-150 for unendorsed motorcycle riders.

ABATE of Michigan, Inc. is urging the Legislature to support this legislation for a number of reasons including the following:

- This would bring the fine in line with that of the unendorsed/unlicensed auto driver.
- The increased fine would encourage riders to become "legal" and get endorsed.
- Riders would have to prove their proficiency by passing the state skills test or taking a motorcycle riders course. This will reduce motorcycle accidents and thus save lives.
- This along with the enforcement of the motorcycle license requirement will help reduce motorcycle accidents, reduce motorcycle fatalities, and reduce insurance liability.

HB-4651 is part of ABATE of Michigan's ongoing effort to reduce accidents and fatalities through rider education, car driver awareness of motorcyclists, and reducing the unendorsed rider population among the motorcycling community.

In conclusion ABATE supports this legislation to increase the fine for riding "illegally" and enforcing existing laws to make motorcycle riders safer.

Jim Rhoades – Legislative Director
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