



TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

Edition II, Volume II (corrected)

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Motorcycle Profiling

House of Representatives Introduced a Resolution Addressing Motorcyclist Profiling

Champions of the motorcyclist community in the House of Representatives introduced a resolution addressing motorcyclist profiling. The resolution (H. Res. 255) has three key points:

- (1) promoting increased public awareness on the issue of motorcyclist profiling;
- (2) encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycle community and law enforcement to engage in efforts to end motorcycle profiling; and
- (3) urging State law enforcement officials to include statements condemning motorcyclist profiling in written policies and training materials.

While previous efforts in the House failed, the United States Senate, in December 2018, passed an identical resolution regarding motorcyclist profiling. The MRF was proud to take a leading role in passing this Senate anti-profiling resolution. The United States Senate is now on record calling for the end of motorcyclist profiling.

The MRF is committed to working with the state motorcycle rights organizations (SMROs), coalitions, COC's, the Motorcycle Profiling Project (MPP), the National Council of Clubs (NCOG), the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), and independent riders to advance H. Res. 255. President of the MRF, Kirk 'Hardtail' Willard, stated "We once again thank Congressmen Walberg, Peterson, Burgess and Pocan for their leadership on this important issue. Motorcyclists in every state are impacted by profiling and we appreciate these Congressmen bringing the issue before the House of Representatives."

To ask your Rep to cosponsor H. Res. 255, please take action at this link: [Take Action H.Res 255](#)

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond. All information contained in this release is copyrighted. Reproduction permitted with attribution. Motorcycle Riders Foundation. All rights reserved. Ride With The Leaders™ by joining the MRF at <http://mrf.org/> or call (202) 546-0983

2020 Nominations

Corporation (State) Offices up for nominations in 2019: - "Election notification for open Corporation positions will be reported in the Corporation newsletter published during the year's first quarter. Nominations for open positions will be accepted from July 2019 through September 2019."

Coordinator:

1. To oversee the operations of the organization, including Corporation level meetings, events and other functions. The Coordinator is required to direct the organization and maintain organizational cohesiveness.
2. The Coordinator is responsible for public relations and may designate an official spokesperson.
3. Chair all Corporation meetings and the annual general membership meeting.
4. Make all decisions, not requiring Board approval, to ensure continuous operation of the Corporation on a daily basis. The Coordinator is not authorized to obligate corporate funds or assets, sign contracts, exempt individuals or groups from any policies in the Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws without Board approval.
5. May only vote at Corporation meetings in the event of a tie.
6. May sign Corporation checks.
7. Authorized to make expenditures benefiting the Corporation, not exceeding \$250.00 annually.
8. Any such other duties that the Corporation shall require.

Secretary:

1. Record and maintain Corporation meeting minutes, and pertinent documents.
2. Work in conjunction with the Coordinator to establish meeting agendas and provide notification for every Corporation meeting to the Board and Corporation officers.
3. Maintain a current copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
4. May sign Corporation checks.

Legislative:

1. Direct the legislative and political goals of the Corporation, both state and federal.
2. Serve as the Corporation's official representative to other Motorcycle Rights Organizations (MRO's).
3. Attend MRO seminars.
 - a. Submit articles to the Corporation newsletter on all conferences attended.
 - b. Submit expense report with receipts to the Treasurer for reimbursement.
4. Maintain communications with Chapter Legislative officers.
5. Maintain current membership for the Corporation in federal and state MRO's.

set the stage >>>

Texas voters oppose Texas (86th) HB 748!



Texas (86th) HB 748 - a house bill authored by Representative Neave, of district 107 does not promote motorcycle safety in Texas! As registered voters and motorcycle enthusiasts in Texas, we are asking legislation to OPPOSE HB 748! Presently, 64% of registered motorcyclists in Texas already choose to wear a helmet without required legislation. HB 748, if passed, would remove several mandates from the Transportation Code, including the mandate (661.003 [c-1]) that it is unlawful to stop a motorcyclist only to check motorcycle endorsements and insurance! HB 748 will not decrease crashes but educating riders will! Texas will continue to support adult choice and accountability; therefore, we sign this [petition](#) to emphatically oppose HB 748!

Take a minute to sign the petition and share with your friends/family.

Petition link: <https://tinyurl.com/y4ewyvhe>

Legislative Report by: Skee Dodson, State Legislative Officer, Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.



Texas legislature only meets in odd-numbered years, the 1st day of our 86th legislative session was January 8th, 2019. A few of us attended “opening day” at the Capitol, which was like a big “open house”—no appointments were needed, free cake and finger foods for everyone, and all the legislators were excited to see us again! We passed around photos of autocycles, took pictures, and confirmed our appointments for January 28th—our Legislative Biker Day at the Capitol. On opening day, we witnessed the inauguration of Rep. Dennis Bonnen as our new Speaker of the House and witnessed the election of Senator Kirk

Watson as the “President Pro Tempore” of the Senate for the 86th Legislature. The “Pro Tempore” serves as Governor in the absence of the Governor and Lt. Governor!

January 28th was one of the most exciting days as a Texas motorcycle Freedom Fighter; it was our biennial “Biker Legislative Day at the Capitol” – and this year did not disappoint! We kicked off our event, 1/27/19, with a meet-n-greet orientation at Hardtail’s Bar & Grill in Georgetown, TX. The guest speakers got everyone fired up and briefed for our big day! It never ceases to amaze me how dedicated some of our brothers and sisters are at these events; Texas Legislative Day would not be possible without the contributions of the Texas COC&I, COIR, US Defenders, United Clubs of Texas, Texas ABATE, and special guests like David Devereaux from the Motorcycle Profiling Project (MPP)!

Orientation was a “full house” and went quite well; the weather could not have been better for January, with the temperatures near 70! Staging for the motorcycle parade began at 8:00 AM, at Hardtail’s Bar & Grill, and departed for the State Capitol at 10:30. By some estimates, we had close to 200 motorcycles in the parade, and I was told it was awesome! A few of us had to forego the parade this year, as we had an appointment with Rep. Neave of Texas D-107—the author of HB 748 (unpopular helmet bill). Freedom Fighters and constituents filled Rep. Victoria Neave’s office (and a large portion of the hallway); and made it a point for everyone to sign her guest-book. It’s not very often that I just stand back and listen, but we had the best Freedom Fighters representing “adult choice and responsibility” at that meeting that we could possibly assemble—all of them great mentors of mine!

HB 748 is a current bill that would repeal the existing amendments to the Texas Transportation Code - addressing helmet requirements! Specifically, this bill would repeal all exceptions allowing a rider to not wear a helmet. This bill, if passed, would also allow law enforcement to stop a rider (with no reasonable suspicion what so ever) only to check their endorsement and insurance! If passed, this would return Texas, a state known for personal freedoms and accountability, back to a mandatory helmet use state. It would be a Class-C Misdemeanor to operate your motorcycle in Texas without a helmet. I think Senator Watson said it best on the steps of the Capitol during our event; the Senator said he does not support Neave’s bill, and that he considers wearing a helmet an “adult decision” that motorcyclists have the right to make.

Halfway through this session, we are watching approximately 15 “motorcycle related” bills. Granted, some of these bills address required licenses for mopeds and rebates for electric motorcycles—but we are watching them none-the-less. **SB 273**, introduced by Sen. Watson - “relating to the operation and movement of motorcycles on certain highways during periods of See more pictures of our Biker Legislative Day on my facebook page, online – at the Capitol: <https://tinyurl.com/y46wdcrj>, and at Hardtail’s Club meet and greet orientation: <https://www.facebook.com/skee.dodson/posts/2248368022088784>

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We are endorsed by the National Condition of Motorcyclists and more than 1,500 motorcycle groups throughout the United States and Canada, and serve as legal counsel for the Confederation of Clubs.

ATTENTION TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION MEMBERS: Our nationwide network of A.J.M. attorneys handle a significant portion of their legal fees from motorcycle accident settlements back into motorcycling by being the sole financial sponsor of the National Condition of Motorcyclists.

Visit us on the web at www.onabike.com

Link for Richard M. Lester: <http://onabike.com/>

Legislative Report (continued)

traffic congestion”, and **HB 1270**, introduced by Rep. Deshotel (companion lane-sharing bill); **HB 646**, introduced by Rep. Raney, relates to “...the operation and inspection of mopeds, increasing a fee”. On the last day of open filing we got the much sought-after news that Representative Zedler (HD 96) sponsored **HB 4265**-a malfunctioning red-light bill! Texas is still seeking a sponsor for an autocycle bill, and more importantly, a motorcycle ant-profiling bill. Texas was #2 in the Nation for reported profiling (2018), which is unconstitutional and illegal—in Texas, or anywhere! Watch these bills at <https://legiscan.com/reports/zbuy2gux>.

The Senate Sunset Review Commission will present two bills to the full legislation (and one from the House)—addressing the Commission’s decision to move the administration/responsibility of the motorcycle “basic rider” training courses (and responsibility of the motorcycle safety & training fund account 0501) away from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). We are very optimistic that this move will reduce the cost of taking the basic rider course, will offer more class locations, and ultimately reduce our un-endorsed rider fatality rates!

We need everyone to contact their representative ASAP and ask them to co-sponsor a common-sense, malfunctioning red-light bill, **HB 4265**. If this bill doesn’t get support soon, it will not get a vote before the session is over. Same goes for the lane-sharing bills (**SB 274** & **HB 1270**). We still have time to address these bills—as “sine die” isn’t until May 27th! We have motorcycle rights in Texas that are worth fighting for, and our rights come with responsibilities! Our rights in Texas are being jeopardized like never before! Let’s fight the good fight (FTGF)! *Skeedaddy*

ask the experts >>>

Q: Where do I send my questions?

A: news@texasabate.com

Have questions about ABATE? Or riding in Texas? Or kid-friendly events? Or which shop to take your ride to? Or “biker-friendly” establishments? Email “Ask the Experts” at news@texasabate.com or you can snail-mail to “Ask the Experts” at Texas Abate Confederation, Inc., 900 Fish Creek Drive, Arlington, TX 76018



Upcoming Events

STATE:

- **04/27/19** [Mid-South MILE Crawfish Boil](#), Shreveport, LA
- **05/11/19** MEETING, 1 pm
Location TBD
- **07/13/19** MEETING, 1 pm
VFW Post 6111, Arlington
- **9/6-9/8/19** [State Rally](#)
General Member Meeting
Dad’s Place -Bells, TX
- **11/02/19** MEETING, 1 pm
Mr. Porky’s, Denton

ARLINGTON:

- **3rd Sunday at 12 noon**
VFW Post 6111
1200 W Harris Street
Arlington 76018
- **04/14/19** *April Meeting* & [Bluebonnet Ride](#)
- **05/18/19** [Bike Blessing](#) AND [Arlington 2nd Fun Run](#)
- **07/13/19** [Swim Party](#)
- **11/17/19** [Bikers Giving Back](#)

DENTON:

- **4th Sunday at 2:00 pm**
Mr. Porky’s
8430 W University Drive
Denton 76207
- **6/7-6/9/19** [NotRot Rally](#)
- **09/14/19** [Teddy Bear Run](#)
- **10/26/19** [Dinner Run](#)
- **11/16/19** [Toy Run](#)
- **12/14/19** [Christmas Party](#)

LAKE CITIES:

- **2nd Sunday at 1:00 pm**
VFW Post 10460
501 Thompson Drive
Lake Dallas 75065

TEXOMA:

- **3rd Sunday at 1:00 pm**
American Legion Post 62
419 Crawford Street
Denison 75020
- **04/06/19** [Chili Cook-Off](#)
- **05/25/19** Cooking at
Sherman Harley-Davidson
- **6/22-6/23** Old Fashion Rally
- **Oct (TBD)** [Real Fun Poker Run](#)
- **Nov (TBD)** [Freedom Run](#)
- **Dec (TBD)** [Christmas Party](#)

final thoughts...

Do you know what is going on in your community? How do you find out? Volunteer. Talk to leaders in your community. What are the “hot” topics of conversation? Do your leaders roll up their sleeves and get in the trenches? Or do they like their “suit and tie” along with their corner office? Ask questions! Give them your input. Let them know where you stand on certain agendas. Will they support what you believe is important? They represent YOU! Find out who they are... <https://fyi.capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx>



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www.texasabate.com/chapters

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This survey will take less than five (5) minutes. Ask questions or provide suggestions. This is YOUR newsletter! Tell us what you want to see.

Contact us at news@texasabate.com

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Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.
900 Fish Creek Drive
Arlington, TX 76018

Texas Abate Confederation, Inc. is a not-for-profit, motorcycle rights organization. An alliance dedicated to the protection of the individual rights of motorcyclists through political change and awareness, charitable works, public education and the promotion of motorcycling.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

In Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.