

MMA 2015 – 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FUND BILL – S.1855 - Senator Thomas McGee

Motorcyclists pay a \$2.00 premium during their annual registration that is supposed to be allocated to a Motorcycle Safety Fund. Though this fund technically exists, it's under control of MassDOT, and details are kept from the public. This Bill seeks to ensure that this money is fully accounted for and stays in a dedicated Motorcycle Safety Fund.

Younger vehicle operators represent the largest percentage of vehicular accidents largely due to their inexperience; motorcycles are no exception. In Massachusetts, those under age 29 represent 35% of all Motorcycle Accidents and Fatalities. Although Junior operators are required under MA Law to take Rider Education for their Motorcycle License, it is expensive and often not a priority for younger riders. This Bill proposes that 20% of the MA Motorcycle Safety Fund (see above) be used to subsidize the cost of training.

MOTORCYCLE HELMET CHOICE BILL – S.2003 - Senator Anne Gobi

Citizens across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have the right to bear arms, serve in the Military, and a plethora of other freedoms, yet they are not allowed to ride helmet-free if they so choose. At the same time, 4 New England Border States offer "Helmet Choice" and motorcyclists are leaving or by-passing Massachusetts to spend their tourist dollars each weekend; the MMA estimates that if only 10% of Massachusetts' riders stayed home each weekend, \$1.25M per day would remain in the Commonwealth. This Bill creates "Freedom of Choice" for motorcyclists riding in Massachusetts.

MALFUNCTIONING TRAFFIC SIGNAL BILL – H.3081 - Representative Thomas Sannicandro

Throughout the Commonwealth, Motorcyclists, Bicyclists and other roadway users find themselves "stuck" at Traffic Actuated Control Signals that do not recognize their presence resulting in often illegal and potentially dangerous results. This Bill creates a set of guidelines similar to "Right on Red" which can create consistent behavior and safe passage should a traffic signal malfunction in the Commonwealth.

RIGHT OF WAY VIOLATIONS BILL – H.3056 – Representative Keiko Orrall

In MA, if a motorist violates another's Right-of-Way (RoW) they receive nothing more than a \$35 citation – a slap on the wrist; the potential penalty to a Motorcyclist, Bicyclist, or Pedestrian could be a LIFE SENTENCE at the Cemetery! In MA, 65% of the time that a Motorcycle is involved in an accident with another vehicle, it's because the other motorist turned left in front of the oncoming Motorcycle! This Bill seeks accountability for motorists who injure or cause the death of other roadway users due to RoW Violations.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR VEHICLE SPECIFIC CHECKPOINTS – H.2981 - Representative Carolyn Dykema & Senator Anne Gobi

Roadblocks and Vehicle Checkpoints are periodically used for Safety Purposes. Although the Massachusetts Constitution has specific processes and regulations for how and when "safety" checkpoints can be operated, it didn't stop some local municipalities from violating the Constitution with State Police support. This Bill eliminates checkpoint stops based on the type of vehicle, or adornment of the vehicle and/or its operator.

MOTORCYCLE SOUND EMISSIONS BILL – H.2973 - Representative Angelo D'Emilia

Massachusetts has two different set of laws that address Motorcycle Sound Emissions. One of them is completely subjective and allows Law Enforcement too much leeway when determining how loud is "too loud". The other is completely objective and requires a series of controlled tests specific to Motorcycles. The Bill seeks to eliminate LEO use of the subjective law when dealing with Motorcycles.

MOTORCYCLE EQUAL ACCESS BILL – H.3313 - Representative Shaunna O'Connell and Senator Joan Lovely

In MA, motorcycle operators are prohibited from parking in certain structures. This Bill seeks to eliminate this discrimination from all structures that receive monies for building, maintenance, and/or operations from the State and the Federal Government and excludes motorcyclists.