



Update on Lane-Sharing Legislation Senate Bill 350 / Senator Jim Beall

As expected many of you are now aware that a lane-sharing bill has been introduced. State Senator Jim Beall (D) representing the Silicon Valley (SD15) authored the bill; Jim Lombardo will work closely with the Senator and his staff as the bill makes its way through the process. ABATE is clearly positioned to lead and guide the bill as needed (language will be changed as deemed necessary).

The bill has only been in print for five days yet several concerns have been raised, that's a good thing! It demonstrates that you're reading the bill and you're interested in making it better.

- ABATE did NOT initiate the bill. However, once we learned that it was going to happen, ABATE/PAC membership approved to have our lobbyist work with the bill's author in an effort to guide the bill's language.

The bill's current language is probably of the most concern.

- It's imperative to note that the bill that has been drafted is NOT the bill that will be heard in the Senate Transportation & Housing Committee.
- Senator Beall is very willing to amend the bill as ideas to improve the language are submitted and reviewed. It's important to note that due to Senate rules, it will be several weeks before ANY amendments can be made.
- Passing a lane-sharing law that is friendly to motorcyclists will help establish a statue that could very possibly remain on the books for a long time.
- Jim Lombardo, ABATE's lobbyist and Steve Guderian, ABATE's Safety Officer will work closely in conjunction with the Senator's office to ensure the final draft addresses the concerns that have been articulated, ultimately reflecting a bill that meets the safety and rights of all of California's motorcyclists.

Senator Beall IS motorcycle-friendly.

- Senator Beall is NOT anti-motorcycle. Also important to note that as matter of fact, the Senator's staff person handling SB350 is an avid motorcyclist.

As stated previously, ABATE has taken the lead with this bill. ABATE welcomes the involvement of other MROs, that involvement needs to be directed through ABATE's Legislative Director.

At this point there is no need to embark on a letter writing or phone campaign; rather it's the time to review the bill carefully and make certain it protects the rights of motorcyclists throughout the state of California.

Here's the bottom line – our goal is to ultimately submit a bill that addresses the concerns of the motorcycle community; a bill that can be supported and endorsed by the ABATE membership. If the final bill doesn't meet ABATE's requirements, ABATE will vigorously oppose the bill and try to kill it.

But as of this writing, the Senator and his staff are very willing and open to meeting to discuss our proposed changes and to improve OUR lane sharing.

For a copy of SB350/Beall, follow this link: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb_0301-0350/sb_350_bill_20130220_introduced.pdf

We'll be certain to keep you apprised of the bill's progress and alert you when it's time for a "call to action."

How can you help? Read the bill, engage your fellow motorcyclists in the discussion and continue to tell us about your suggestions and concerns. Please direct your questions, comments and/or concerns to:

Sandra Lubbers, Legislative Director
ABATE of California
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