

> THE AIM/NCOM MOTORCYCLE E-NEWS SERVICE is brought to you by Aid to
 > Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the National Coalition of
 > Motorcyclists (NCOM), and is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard
 > M. Lester. For more information, call us at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE or visit
 > us on our website at <http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com>.

>
 > NCOM NEWS BYTES
 > Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish
 > National Coalition of Motorcyclists

>
 >
 > FREEDOM OF CHOICE MAY COME WITH A PRICE TAG Pennsylvania
 > motorcyclists successfully modified their mandatory helmet law in 2003
 > to allow riders 18 and older the option of wearing a helmet, but now a
 > lawmaker wants bikers who don't wear a helmet to carry at least
 > \$10,000 in medical insurance to cover injuries if they crash. State
 > Sen. Constance Williams says the requirement honors bikers' freedom to
 > ride helmetless while making sure they take financial responsibility
 > for their decision.

>
 > Governor Ed Rendell, who signed the law that allows bikers to ride
 > without a helmet, has said more Pennsylvanians die from smoking than
 > motorcycle accidents, but Sen. Williams cites a national report being
 > circulated among State Legislatures that says highway fatalities are
 > on the rise for the first time in 20 years, linking the increase to
 > deaths from motorcycle crashes.

>
 >
 > NEW TWIST FOR HELMET LAW MODIFICATION Lost revenues from tourism has
 > become a common theme for modifying helmet laws in states that claim
 > motorcyclists are riding around them and spending their vacation money
 > in other states that don't require helmets.

>
 > Now Virginia has taken that argument a step further by proposing
 > legislation that would allow motorcyclists to ride without a helmet on
 > state scenic highways. On all other roads, police would not be allowed
 > to stop riders for not wearing helmets unless they are stopped for
 > another driving offense such as speeding, making the helmet violation
 > a secondary offense.

>
 > Virginia motorcyclists are requesting help from across the country to
 > pass HB 2585, asking riders to write their Delegates to let them know
 > that you would spend your tourism dollars in Virginia if the state
 > allowed freedom of choice on its beautiful scenic byways.

>
 > Bikers in Nebraska also want the right to make their own decisions
 > about helmets, saying the current helmet law is costing the state \$2-5
 > million a year during annual bike festivals in neighboring states
 > because motorcyclists avoid riding through helmet law states.

- >
- > Motorcyclists are lobbying the Unicameral legislature in Lincoln to
- > support LB 253, a bill that would allow riders 21 and older to ride
- > without a helmet. ABATE of Nebraska is not asking for letters or phone
- > calls to their legislators at this juncture, but they would like for
- > out-of-state riders to visit their website at www.abateofne.com and
- > fill out a simple online poll that will allow them to put together
- > written testimony from motorcyclists from across the nation.
- >
- > ?ABATE of Nebraska has once again filed legislation to establish
- > Freedom Of Choice for adult motorcyclists,? said Tiger Mike Revere,
- > state coordinator for ABATE of Oklahoma and member of the National
- > Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) Board of Directors. ?They have
- > appealed for our help, and I pledged NCOM's support for their
- > campaign. Unfortunately, I have the additional subject of the Helmet
- > Law assault in Oklahoma to address.?
- >
- >
- > TELEVISION DOESN'T REFLECT REALITY Most people drive safer than
- > television characters, according to a University of Alabama at
- > Birmingham study. The UAB study of 79 prime time TV shows revealed
- > that actors often don't buckle up before they drive and sometimes
- > don't wear helmets when they ride motorcycles and bicycles.
- >
- > The research study, published in the journal Injury Sciences, found
- > that over four weeks the television characters buckled up only 62
- > percent of the time. The TV characters used motorcycle helmets only 47
- > percent of the time and bicycle helmets nine percent of the time.
- > Research shows most Americans are much safer ? buckling seat belts 80
- > percent of time, using motorcycle helmets 60 percent of the time
- > bicycle helmets 40 percent of the time.
- >
- > "Since Americans watch more than four hours of TV per day, how safety
- > behaviors are depicted on television can have tremendous influence on
- > public perception of seatbelt and helmet use," said Gerald McGwin,
- > Ph.D., associate director for research at the Center for Injury
- > Sciences and one of the study authors. Researchers also studied 21,670
- > television commercials that McGwin says present a safer depiction,
- > with seatbelt use by 86 percent of individuals, motorcycle helmet use
- > 100 percent and bike helmet use 84 percent.
- >
- >
- > CONNECTICUT BIKERS WANT TO RAISE THE BAR Connecticut State Reps
- > Wilbur and Zalaski have co-sponsored a bill to repeal their 15-inch
- > handlebar height law. CT statute # 14-80i(b) reads: "No person shall
- > operate a motorcycle on a highway or in any parking area for ten or
- > more motor vehicles if the motorcycle is equipped with handlebars that
- > are more than fifteen inches in height above the uppermost portion of
- > the seat when the seat is depressed by the weight of the operator."
- >
- > Rep. Wilber, who co-sponsored this bill with Rep Zalazki, had an OLR

- > legislative report done that concluded that high handlebars are not a
- > safety issue. The report also found that there has been a trend
- > across the country to change the height restriction law with 16 states
- > completely repealing the law. HB 6937 is currently under
- > consideration in the Transportation Committee, and would completely
- > repeal the handlebar law 14-80i(b), allowing Connecticut riders to
- > decide for themselves what height their handlebars should be.
- >
- >
- > VIRGINIA RIDERS BESIDE THEMSELVES Virginia is only one of two states
- > that specifically prohibit two motorcycles to ride two abreast in a
- > traffic lane, but riders there are hoping to change that.
- >
- > HB 1808 has passed out of Transportation Committee and bikers are
- > urging their Delegates to support the bill when it comes up for a
- > vote. They argue, among other things, that two motorcycles abreast in
- > a traffic lane aids in making the motorcycles more visible to other
- > traffic, and that in larger groups of motorcycles, riding two abreast
- > keeps the overall length of the group shorter, and discourages other
- > vehicles from dangerously cutting into the group - an issue
- > motorcyclists riding in groups often face.
- >
- >
- > OH DEER! According to transportation officials, nearly 200 people are
- > killed nationwide each year in crashes involving wildlife, mostly
- > deer. The collisions cost drivers almost \$1.5 billion each year in
- > property damage, deaths and injuries.
- >
- > The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) says they are trying
- > to cut those numbers down. Flash lights and motion sensors are just a
- > few of many solutions transportation experts are considering, and CDOT
- > has put up a number of wildlife escape ramps on US 550 that allow
- > wildlife to cross the road without getting stuck in traffic. CDOT says
- > animals are getting more used to the ramps, even teaching their young
- > how to use them.
- >
- > On US 40, CDOT also installed a series of unusual looking reflectors
- > to create flashes of light at 54 angles, horizontally and vertically,
- > when a vehicle's light hits them. According to CDOT, the reflected
- > light bounces back and forth across the road, deterring deer and other
- > wildlife from crossing. Drivers cannot see the light because of the
- > way it's reflected.
- >
- > CDOT also hopes to install a motion detector system on US 160, that
- > when triggered by a deer or other animal will cause a large light to
- > go on to let an oncoming driver see there's an animal on or near the
- > road. The light may also startle the animal and keep it off of the road.
- >
- > Meanwhile, an eight state research group met in Minnesota to
- > brainstorm ideas for keeping wildlife off the road, and their leading
- > proposal involves placing canisters of real or synthetic wolf and

- > coyote urine near the roadways, hoping the scent of predators will
- > cause the animals to flee.
- >
- >
- > INDONESIA INSTITUTES NEW ANTI-MOTORCYCLE LAWS New motorcycle lanes
- > went into effect in Jakarta in January. Motorcyclists are now supposed
- > to use the "slow" left lanes on city streets and police began getting
- > tough on riders by issuing more than a thousand traffic tickets the
- > first day to bikers not riding in the designated lanes. Trials are
- > held on the spot and take about 5 minutes.
- >
- > The head of traffic at the Jakarta Police, Sr. Comr. Djoko Susilo,
- > said he hoped the rule would increase order in the streets and reduce
- > the number of traffic accidents.
- >
- > The left-lane rule is not the only new requirement for motorcyclists.
- > They are also being told to keep their headlights on during the day,
- > so that other vehicles can see them more easily.
- >
- > The city is also considering banning them from entering main
- > thoroughfares during peak hours, recommending that motorcyclists park
- > their bikes and make use of the city's busway instead.
- >
- > Of 7.23 million vehicles in Jakarta, 64.1 percent, or 4.64 million,
- > are motorcycles. The Jakarta Transportation Board has estimated that
- > more than three million motorbikes are on the city's roads every day,
- > compared to 2.5 million cars. Out of the 4,206 road accidents reported
- > last year, 3,826 involved motorcyclists.
- >
- > But the government believes emissions tests may be the best way to
- > curb motorcycle growth, so the Jakarta administration has been called
- > upon to enforce stricter emissions testing for motorcycles to control
- > the increasing number of motorbikes, up 15% from the previous year.
- > The State Ministry for the Environment said motorbikes that fail to
- > meet emissions standards could be banned from the city's streets. 60%
- > of the motorcycles tested in spot checks did not meet emissions
- > standards set in 1993, so the ministry predicts that even more would
- > fail the newer, tougher emission standard issued in 2006.
- >
- >
- > JESSE JAMES FINED BY CARB California air regulators have issued
- > \$271,250 in total
- > fines against Jesse James of West Coast Choppers, the co-producer and
- > host of "Monster Garage" and "Motorcycle Mania," saying that 50 of his
- > custom-built choppers ran afoul of California's clean-air rules.
- >
- > California Air Resources Board officials said their inspectors found
- > that the monster bikes sold between 1998 and 2005 did not have state
- > certified emissions equipment on their exhaust and fuel systems,
- > resulting in these bikes spewing hydrocarbons at up to 10 times the
- > state limits.

- >
- > The market for custom-built motorcycles has taken off in recent years,
- > and prominent bike builders have achieved celebrity status, but
- > progressively stricter new emissions regulations from the EPA are
- > already impacting the motorcycle industry.
- >
- >
- > WEIRD NEWS: DRUNKEN DOUGHNUTS A Pontiac, MI motorcyclist gets sued,
- > then sent to prison, for his actions that took place outside a bar
- > earlier this year as he was ?doing doughnuts? in the parking lot when
- > he struck and injured a woman who was standing outside the saloon.
- >
- > Now he?ll be riding a prison van to Stateville Correctional Center,
- > where he was sentenced to one year after pleading guilty to failure to
- > report an accident with injury. He was also ordered to pay
- > restitution, and faces a lawsuit from the injured woman who is seeking
- > \$50,000 each from the rider, the owner of the motorcycle and the
- > saloon owner.
- >
- >
- > QUOTABLE QUOTE: ?We, too, born to freedom, and believing in freedom,
- > are willing to fight to maintain freedom. We, and all others who
- > believe as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on
- > our knees.?
- > Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882 - 1945), 32nd President of the United
- > States
- >
- >
- > And that's all the News that fits!
- >
- >
- >
- > _____
- > Cycle_News mailing list
- > Cycle_News@aimncom.com
- > http://aimncom.com/mailman/listinfo/cycle_news_aimncom.com
- >