



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to the Freedom of the Road and Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

April 15, 2021

The 2021 Legislative Session has ended, and I would like to update you on what happened to the legislation to which Abate provided testimony:

We had 2 wins this year and 4 losses:

HB178 – Vehicle Laws – Reckless Driving, Speed Contests, Registration Plates, and Noise 3 Abatement – Penalties

The proposed bill included language regarding exhaust noise that was disadvantageous to motorcyclists. We provided testimony that with the exhaust noise wording in this bill it could lead to profiling of certain types of vehicles including motorcyclists and the exhaust noise portion of the proposed bill was removed.

HB118 – Vehicle Laws – Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual – Penalties

This bill is on the way to the Governor's office and is likely to pass. It provides a penalty of mandatory court appearance to persons who cause the death or serious injury to *certain* vulnerable individuals (vulnerable individuals definition includes persons on a motorcycle). At Abate of Md we do not consider ourselves vulnerable individuals however, this legislation makes people who cause an accident that injures a vulnerable individual accountable for their actions.

HB0668 & SB495 – Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation (Sherry's and Ryan's Law)

These cross-filed bills would have provided that reckless drivers who cause the death of *anyone* must appear in Court and may not prepay the fine. Sadly, neither bill received a vote.

HB1114- Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law – Yard Waste – Disposal on Highways (“Grass Bill”)

We mounted a strong phone call and email campaign in support of this bill and it received a unanimous vote in the House. We continued to press for a vote however the bill did not make it out of the JPR committee.

Senate Bill 712-Vehicle Laws - Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Riders - Exception

We provided quite a bit of testimony from several points of view (including letters of testimony from the Vice President of the MRF) but this bill was not afforded a vote in the JPR. We will again work with Senator Hough to bring this bill forward next year.

During this year's Legislative session, many of our members called and wrote to their representatives in the Maryland Senate and House and let them know our views on the bills that were brought forth.



I thank each and every one of you that took the time to write or call. Every year it is important to contact the Legislators but this year, due to the inability to see our representatives in person, it was even more important.

Thank you for the work you have done. I feel some disappointment that we did not accomplish more but we can strategize and begin to plan for 2022 when we will be once again looking out for the rights of all motorcyclists in the State.

Abate of Maryland Inc. is looking for help in all counties in the state. If you have any interest in helping, please get in contact with me to discuss.

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