

## NO BONES ABOUT IT

March 13, 2011

On March the 10th once again we went before the Senate Transportation Committee to ask the Senate to repeal the current helmet law in Nevada to allow riders over 21 years old to ride helmet free. Now I understand that some of you out there are rolling your eyes and groaning but I think you should hear me out. This battle over the headgear law in Nevada has been going on for twenty plus years without success and we needed to try a new approach.

The younger riders (under 21) are the ones that are taking the brunt of this bill passage as they will be affected the most, and for that I apologize. We have attempted to present this bill every way that we could and with the safety training and the under 21-helmet amendment to the bill we would not have even got a look by the Senate. The people up north put this thing together along with our friend Senator Don Gustavson and they did what they had to do to get it introduced. I think that any concession to this foolish and archaic law, are also foolish and archaic in the fact that we should not be subject to government intervention on issues of personal freedom, but I also realize that this process needs to be taken one step at a time so I am good with the bullshit for now. For those of you who are under the 21 year old age thing remember that you can ride helmet-less with a riders safety course which isn't a bad idea.

By making these types of concessions we are enabling the government again to intervene into our lives if for nothing else but to stop riders for looking too young. This is bullshit but take into consideration where we would be without the concessions. The Transportation Committee would have tabled the bill (a legal way of saying shit-canned the bill) as did the previous Senator in charge of the Committee, Dennis Nolan, and our hopes of riding without the helmet would be gone for another two years. For me the fight will go on as usual win, lose, or draw to eliminate the concessions altogether.

We cannot fight if we are not invited into the ring. I feel that if we do get through this bill and it gets passed we will have the advantage to prove to the Legislators that what we say is true. I think this is the wrong way to do it and we should not have to prove anything to anyone but again they have the power to change or not change the law.

There have been many people that have dedicated a lot of their time to this and put more than their share of effort into getting this far and for that I would like to thank them. There are some who stood by and did nothing; to them I would say we need your support now more than ever so let's get it done. We have 12 sponsors and co sponsors to this bill but we will need a majority vote to get it passed in the Assembly. The people that have their names tied to this bill are as follows, Senator Don Gustavson (R), Senator Elizabeth Halseth (R), Assemblyman John Ellison (R), Senator Barbara Cegavske (R), Senator Jon Lee (D), Senator Mark Menendo (D), Senator Mike Roberson (R), Senator James Settlemyer (R), Assemblyman Ed Goedhart (R), Assemblyman John Hambrick (R), Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick (D), and Richard McArthur (R). These people are on our side and are in support of SB 177. We have the support of other people such as Assemblyman Richard Carrillo (D), and Senator Shirley Breedon (D), which gives us a pretty long list of the people on our side.

What we need to work on are the people that don't appear on this list, regardless if you live in their district or not. Politicians look at the number of people for and against this issue and make a decision based on the population and the number of votes to keep them in office. At the time of this writing I checked the Nevada State web site and found out that we are 8th on the list of most reviewed bills by the public. The little comment box on the right side of the page where it asks if you would like to make a comment on any of the bills should be on your favorites bar on your computer. You need to make a

statement that you are **FOR SB 177**. Some of you have gone to that page and checked the 'against' box and wrote positive comments about this bill.

The battle is not over yet but the end of the war is in site and the outcome looks promising for our side. If we keep up the campaign and get our point across to the legislators we could soon be riding in a freedom of choice State. I can't do anything without you, as I am only one voice. With your help we will make the politicians listen and end discriminatory practices throughout the state of Nevada.

I have sent away for the disc of the proceedings that took place on March 10th and I will attempt to get them on to the web site [www.abatesnv.com](http://www.abatesnv.com) so we will all be able to watch them.