



# TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

## IT'S THE LAW...

### **SLOW DOWN... MOVE OVER**

In 2003, the Texas State legislature passed the original Move Over law. Originally designed to protect law enforcement officers, emergency vehicles & first responders from being hit when working on the side of a roadway. The law requires all drivers approaching a stopped emergency vehicle with lights activated to slow down or move over one lane.

In 2011, the law was amended to include stationary tow trucks to the list of protected emergency vehicles. The law has since been further amended to include all TxDOT vehicles that are stopped on the side of the road with activated lights.

Keep in mind, there are two parts to the Texas move over law; moving over one lane AND slowing down. All drivers are required to move over one lane if traveling on a multi-lane roadway when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle with activated lights on the same side of the road as the driver. This provides for an empty lane between the driver & the public servant, tow truck operator & TxDot personnel.

If the driver is unable to move over, then the driver MUST slow down to a speed equal to 20 miles per hour lower than the posted speed, provided the speed limit is greater than 25 miles per hour. If the posted speed is 25 miles per hour or less, the driver is to slow down to 5 miles per hour until they pass the stopped emergency vehicle.

Although the Texas Department of Public Safety stepped up its enforcement of the bill after the tow truck provision went into effect, following injured and killed emergency responders by motorists passing too closely, many drivers continue to neglect the legislation. From the period of January through September 2018, over 32,000 warnings & citations have been issued for Slow Down... Move Over violators. Citations carry a fine of up to \$200 for non-accident incidents, \$500 if the driver causes property damage, and the possibility of jail time along with a \$2,000 fine if someone is injured as a result. Over 100 Texas Transportation Department employees have died after being struck by a vehicle since 1938 making Texas roadways and construction zones one of the deadliest places to work.

THIS IS A COMMON-SENSE PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT WILL SAVE LIVES! Whether you're driving on a Texas road or highway, or traveling to another State, PLEASE **SLOW DOWN** and **MOVE OVER!** (corrections)

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Skee Dodson, Texas Abate Legislative Officer

Wait, what - It's December already?! That means we are only 1 month away from the beginning of our Texas 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, and only one month away from our "Texas Biker Legislative Day" in Austin--on January 28, 2019! Wow! The staging for our motorcycle parade on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> will begin at 8:00 AM, at Hardtail's Bar & Grill, and we will depart for the State Capitol at 10:30. Texas Legislative Day would not be possible without the contributions of the Texas COC&I, COIR, US Defenders, United Clubs of Texas, Texas ABATE Confederation, and many others; we are optimistic that this next legislative session will be a productive one for all motorcyclists in Texas! The Texas 86<sup>th</sup> legislative session will meet for only 140 days, and it will move at a very fast pace. As a matter of fact, if a bill isn't pre-filed, or filed early, it is quite conceivable that it will run out of time! Right now, as you are reading this, we need to contact our members of Congress—and we need to ask our representatives for an appointment before the beginning of this session, or at least on our Motorcyclist Legislative Day on 01/8/19. Make an attempt, every day, until we get results! We need everyone to work together in unity, for

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **STATE:**

-**01/05/19** State Meeting  
Mr. Porky's, Denton, TX

### **ARLINGTON:**

-**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12 noon**  
VFW Post 6111  
1200 W Harris Street  
Arlington 76018  
-**12/16/18** Raffle Drawing

### **DENTON:**

-**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm**  
Mr. Porky's  
8430 W University Drive  
Denton 76207  
-**12/15/18** Christmas Party

### **LAKE CITIES:**

-**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm**  
American Legion Post 88  
105 Gotcher Avenue  
Lake Dallas 75065

### **TEXOMA:**

-**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 1:00 pm**  
American Legion Post 62  
419 W Crawford Street  
Denison 75020  
-**12/8/18** Christmas Party  
-**12/15/18** Toy Run

motorcycle legislation in Texas! Be sure you make plans to attend our legislative day (1/28) ASAP! Texas ABATE has donated over \$800 towards motorcycle parking and speaker fees at the Capitol—let's be sure that we will fill a large majority of those parking spaces!

This session, Texas would like to find sponsors for the same issues that we asked support for during the 85th. Texas had three motorcycle bills filed: SB 288, SB 346, and HB 1240. SB 288, filed by Sen. Kirk Watson, related to lane sharing/filtering (controlled access, 20 mph traffic, and motorcycles sharing lanes at no more than 5mph faster); SB 346, also filed by Sen. Watson, related to malfunctioning red lights (if traffic light fails to recognize mc, one cycle); and a companion (house) bill, HB 1240 filed by Representative Bill Zedler—also related to a malfunctioning red light, similar to SB 346, but would require two complete cycles—and applies only to motorcycles. Texas is very optimistic that a similar bill will be introduced to create a separate classification for autocycles and register autocycles as such; autocycles should not be classified and registered as motorcycles! Also, last session, Gov. Abbot had vetoed all motorcycle safety funds for fiscal year 2019; we would like to see a bill this session to address those vetoed funds (\$2+ mill.)—and to request funding to make up for this loss of (dedicated) funding! Most importantly, the time has come for us to have a courageous conversation with our elected representatives concerning motorcycle profiling in Texas! With a recent Federal resolution promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling, (114th H.Res 831 & S. Res.154) —and with anti-profiling laws passed in Washington, and most recently in Maryland, it has become a top priority to pass similar legislation here in Texas! We are optimistic that Texas will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> state in our Union to pass a law to condemn and prevent motorcycle profiling!

Also, during the upcoming 86<sup>th</sup> session, the Senate Sunset Review Commission will present a bill to the full legislation—addressing the Commission's decision on which agency should administer the motorcycle training courses - and also the responsibility for the safety and training fund account (0501). These responsibilities are presently being administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS), which is going to change.

Whatever the Commission recommends, we know that Texas cannot afford to have fewer riders take the basic riders course! Call, email, or write your legislator this week, and as a constituent, let them know that you would like to meet with them to discuss motorcycle legislation. Remind them that you are a registered voter, and that you are looking forward to meeting with them.

Feel free to contact me at [skee.dodson@texasabate.com](mailto:skee.dodson@texasabate.com) when you set an appointment, or if you need any help in any way; January will be here before you know it! Remember, our rights come with responsibilities!

Ride safe, ride free, *Sheedaddy*

**TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION IS A MEMBER OF NCOM**

**Motorcycle Accident?**

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- No Recovery - No Fee
- We Make House Calls
- Also Auto Accidents

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We are endorsed by the National Coalition of Motorcycle and more than 1,500 motorcycle groups throughout the United States and Canada, and are an Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Organization. Our nationwide network of 110 offices handles a significant portion of each year's loss from motorcycle accident settlements back into motorcycling by being the sole national sponsor of the National Coalition of Motorcycle.

## MRF CONTRACTS WITH HUSCH BLACKWELL STRATEGIES

November 26, 2018

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) has contracted with Husch Blackwell Strategies (HBS) a Washington, DC. based lobbying firm to pursue passage of their anti-profiling resolutions in both the House of Representatives & the Senate. Membership stressed to the MRF how important these resolutions are to the motorcyclists & they are taking proactive steps to seek passage before the end of the year. HBS will advocate for the MRF on Capitol Hill & continue the momentum built over the last two years.

HBS has a dozen federal lobbyists representing both ends of the political spectrum. The staff at HBS has decades of experience both on Capitol Hill & on K Street advocating for client interests. They have a diverse client base representing everything from Fortune 500 companies to small trade associations. Additionally, HBS has a growing state lobbying practice with offices in Texas, Nebraska, Wisconsin & Missouri.

William "Rocky" Fox will lead the efforts with assistance from his colleagues at HBS. Fox has over 10 years of experience in the lobbying world, representing such clients as the Outdoor Amusement Business Association, MGM Casinos, Drive Right USA & AT&T. Mr. Fox began his career as a staffer on the House

Texas Abate Confederation, Inc. is a motorcycle rights organization that is dedicated to freedom of the road for all motorcyclists, promotes rider education for all motorcycle riders, motorcycle awareness for all automobile drivers, and fights discriminatory legislation aimed towards the motorcycling community. *Dedicated to Freedom of the Road In Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.*

Transportation Committee during the passage of the 2005 Transportation bill (SAFTEA-LU). He is a graduate of the University of San Diego & holds a Masters' Degree in Public Policy from American University. Here is a link to the HBS website: [hbstrategies.us](http://hbstrategies.us)

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation: The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs & individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national & international levels that impact the freedom & safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling & its associated lifestyle & works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials & policymakers in Washington & beyond. All Information contained in this release is copyrighted. Reproduction permitted with attribution. Motorcycle Riders Foundation. All rights reserved. Ride With The Leaders™ by joining the MRF at <http://mrf.org/> or call (202) 546-0983

**STATE NEWS UPDATE**

Incoming 2019 State Board Members include:

Asst. Coordinator: George Guffee	Treasurer: Steve Scheideman
Membership: Shellie White	(appointed by Dad)
Newsletter: Bearpup	Independent Rep: Donna Pierce

Changes to the Articles of Incorporation went into effect in September 2018. A few key points include (**corrections**):

1. **A member of ANY chapter** may be a proxy & count towards a quorum;
2. Review period is now 60 days instead of 90 days;
3. Dissolution of **corporation** is the responsibility of the last remaining **executive officer**;
4. All funds will go the state treasury (**one account**), including membership; and
5. A **finalized** hard copy of the Articles/Bylaws will be provided to each board of director at the Jan 5<sup>th</sup> state meeting.

Additionally, the Bylaws committee is working on revisions to clarify & simplify our guidelines. (NOTE: Review of bylaws & corrections are due by December **26th**)

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERY METHOD SURVEY**

We need your help to keep you informed. How do you want to receive your newsletter?

PLEASE, complete this survey online at [www.tinyurl.com/abateneews](http://www.tinyurl.com/abateneews) or print this page, complete, and submit by scanning & emailing to [news@texasabate.com](mailto:news@texasabate.com) or mail paper copy of completed form to:

**Texas Abate Confederation, Inc., Texas Tidbits, 900 Fish Creek Drive, Arlington, TX 76018**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

EMAIL ADDRESS:			
CURRENT MEMBER? (Y/N)	LIFETIME MEMBER? Y/N	EXPIRATION MONTH:	EXPIRATION YEAR:
MEMBER ID NUMBER (INCLUDE HYPHEN/LETTER):		PREFERRED METHOD OF DELIVERY (CIRCLE ONE)	
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IF ELECTRONIC, WOULD YOU LIKE TEXAS TIDBITS TO BE SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR EMAIL OR DO YOU PREFER TO CLICK ON A LINK FROM FACEBOOK/OUR WEBSITE (CIRCLE ONE)			
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