

**A.B.A.T.E. Of Ohio, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 23701 Columbus, OH 43222**  
*Dedicated To Freedom Of The Road Since 1978*

**Ohio House Transportation And Public Safety Committee**

**Written Testimony In Opposition of H.B. 338**

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee:

ABATE of Ohio, Inc. (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education) is a State Motorcycle Rights Organization (SMRO) that has been forwarding the rights and safety of Ohio's 500,000 motorcyclist since 1978. We keep an eye on state and local issues as well as team with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), and the National Coalition Of Motorcycles (NCOM) on national issues. ABATE of Ohio respectfully submits this statement in opposition of House Bill 338 (HB 338).

**Background:**

In 1988 the Motorcycle Ohio training program was created to provide affordable safety training to the motorcycle riders in Ohio. ABATE of Ohio, Inc. was a part of the group that developed the legislation that created the program, including its funding, and has been a stakeholder/supporter of the program ever since. Motorcycle Ohio has provided an effective affordable program for over 30 years, including developing the Motorcycle Ohio Rider Enhancement (MORE) program. ABATE of Ohio was in support of the new program to help address skills needed specific to riding in Ohio. This curriculum is also used in a neighboring state because of how effective it is.

**ABATE of Ohio has several concerns with HB 338:**

- With the number of programs already in existence and more being developed, how can the quality of training be ensured so the motorcyclists of Ohio are trained properly?
- As the technology involving a motorcycle and its interaction with the road and infrastructure changes, how are multiple training programs kept up to date? With autonomous, self-driving, technology being introduced to the roadways of Ohio and how this technology will be going through constant changes of how vehicles interact with each other and these roadways a program staying up to date is critical to public safety.
- Will the rider needing an endorsement shop around for the "easiest" set of testing standards or scoring? ABATE of Ohio is not opposed to teaching a standard approved by another state but is opposed to awarding a motorcycle endorsement

to anyone that has not passed a skills test that is as least as challenging as the one administered by the Ohio BMV Testing Centers.

- Will trainers who teach multiple programs at multiple sites drift between programs teaching highlights from several and create their own hybrid program?
- Motorcycle Ohio is currently a 3 person team that handles the monumental tasks of overseeing training the students, training the instructors, quality assurance, data collection and range compliance. Should Motorcycle Ohio be used to do this for multiple programs?
- Should public money be used to support private sector training? Is a \$400 private provider certification fee and a \$50 instructor certification fee enough to make sure that the programs and instructors are kept up to date with current Ohio standards? As stated before, this will be critical to the safe operation of a motorcycle in Ohio.
- Should an endorsement to operate a motorcycle in the State of Ohio be awarded without the oversight of Motorcycle Ohio and/or the BMV?
- Is a one time “lifetime” fee enough to cover the lifetime cost of oversight? The funds generated by the current fee attached to a motorcycle registration was approved to be used in the advancement of motorcycle safety on the roadways of Ohio, not fund the oversight of private organizations.

**Conclusion:**

Over the last three decades as motorcycle ownership has increased, the number of injury accidents and deaths has gone down. Either measuring by vehicle miles traveled or as a percentage of riders on the road, these numbers have gone down. Effective training has proven to be a critical part of these declines. ABATE of Ohio, Inc. must stand in opposition of HB 338.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.  
Mike Stock  
Chairman of the Board  
ABATE of Ohio, Inc.