



To: House Transportation Committee

From: Vince Consiglio, President, ABATE of Michigan

RE: HB 4671: Motorcycle Temporary Permits

**ABATE of Michigan, Inc.**

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Motorcycle operators are required to get an Operator Cycle License (OCY) on their driver's license to ride a motorcycle legally in Michigan. This program has been around since the early 70's. The TIP program, Temporary Instructional Permit, allows a person to take a written test and ride a motorcycle in visual sight of a licensed operator in day time, to improve their skill enough to pass the state license riding test.

Michigan has a terrible track record regarding unlicensed motorcycle riders being over represented in Michigan motorcycle fatalities. The Secretary of State did a study from 1989-1993. 49% of the motorcycle fatalities didn't have a cycle endorsement. 2002 University of Michigan, UMTREE, did a similar study and 42% of the motorcycle fatalities didn't have a cycle endorsement. In 2008 the Michigan State Police, Office of Highway Safety Planning did a similar study and 38% of the motorcycle fatalities didn't have a cycle endorsement. In 2012, according to OHSP stats, 58% of the Michigan motorcycle fatalities didn't have a cycle endorsement.

Currently, many Michigan motorcycle riders get a TIP annually instead of taking a motorcycle safety class or a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, Rider Skills Test (RST). This skills test consists of a cone weave, normal stop, turn from a stop, U-turn, quick stop, and obstacle swerve. The general perception of this and any riding test is that large touring motorcycles cannot maneuver through these exercises. ABATE of Michigan annually has demonstrated the state rider skills test in front of the Capital for the last 15 years on large motorcycles.

ABATE of Michigan supports the immediate passage of this legislation as the 1<sup>st</sup> step to reduce the large percentage of fatalities among unlicensed motorcyclists. This bill will force the Secretary of State to keep records of who gets a TIP and would limit 2 per ten years. In a perfect world a TIP wouldn't be needed. The facts are these unendorsed riders are way over represented in Michigan motorcycle fatalities and this issue needs to be addressed.

Thank You, Vince Consiglio