



*“Dedicated to the freedom of the road!”*



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# ABATE of NY Legislative Priorities May 2026

# ABATE of NY

A.B.A.T.E. is American Bikers Aimed toward Education. Now celebrating our 52nd year in New York, we are a motorcycle rights organization with 11 individual chapters in the state.

We are not a "motorcycle club!" Instead, we are a group of individuals from different backgrounds coming together to ensure that the rights of all motorcycle riders are protected.

We do this by making sure that the motorcyclists' point of view is presented to our legislators.

We proudly speak for the motorcyclists in our state, which includes over 750,000 New Yorkers, according to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.

We encourage our members to be informed, registered voters. We write letters to our elected officials and stay aware of what is going on with motorcycle legislation, education, and other issues that affect the riding community. And we pay very close attention to how motorcyclists and laws relating to motorcycles are supported by you, our elected officials!

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# A1788/S2061

*Provides for certain presumptions for reckless driving and the implementation of a reckless driving and vehicular violence awareness component of the pre-licensing course for a driver's license.*

- A1788 referred to Transportation Committee
- S2061 passed in 2025 and referred to the Transportation Committee

ABATE's position:

By introducing presumptions for reckless driving, this bill aims to hold accountable those who endanger others through their actions behind the wheel. Additionally, integrating a vehicular violence awareness component into the pre-licensing course underscores the importance of fostering a culture of responsibility and respect among drivers. ABATE of NY believes that such initiatives will not only enhance road safety but also contribute to a more informed and conscientious driving community. Through education and awareness, ABATE of NY seeks to reduce the incidence of reckless driving and vehicular violence, ultimately creating safer roads for all users in New York State.

# A3172

*Relates to reckless driving; relates to culpability regarding criminal homicide involving the use of a motor vehicle.*

- Referred to Codes Committee

ABATE's position:

All too often, irresponsible and dangerous driving leads to tragic outcomes for motorcycle riders, and those responsible face minimal consequences. This legislation represents a necessary step toward justice and deterrence, reinforcing the principle that all lives on the road matter, and those who cause harm through recklessness can be held criminally accountable when their actions result in a fatal crash.

# A7659/S6601

*Requires the municipal police training council to ensure that issues related to motorcycle profiling are addressed in basic law enforcement training.*

- A7659 referred to Government Operations Committee
- S6601 referred to Finance Committee

ABATE's position:

This legislation represents a significant stride towards eliminating discriminatory practices against motorcyclists by ensuring law enforcement officers receive training to recognize and mitigating motorcycle rider profiling. By mandating training programs that educate officers about the unfair targeting and stereotyping of motorcyclists solely based on their choice of transportation, A7659/S6601 seeks to foster a more equitable and respectful interaction between law enforcement and the motorcycle community.

# A6063/S4423

*Provides for the types of damages that may be awarded to the persons for whose benefit an action for wrongful death is brought.*

- Passed in both houses and vetoed by the Governor

ABATE's position:

The Grieving Families Act helps ensure justice for the families of those who are wrongfully killed by the acts of others, including riders killed by negligent drivers. This important legislation provides surviving families the ability to seek fair compensation for their pain and suffering, addressing the emotional and financial hardships that come with such a devastating loss. By expanding the definition of "family" to include not only traditional relatives but also those who have close, dependent relationships with the deceased, the Grieving Families Act recognizes the wide-ranging impact of such tragedies. This bill is crucial for holding negligent drivers accountable and providing much-needed support to those left behind.

# A10563/S2114

*The Vehicular Violence Accountability Act introduces Article 126 to the Penal Law, establishing a framework for the offense categories:*

- *Serious Physical Injury by Vehicle*
- *Aggravated Serious Physical Injury by Vehicle*
- *Death by Vehicle*
- *Aggravated Death by Vehicle*

*Also adds new testing requirements to the DMV licensing process, including new content regarding Road Rage, Vehicular Violence, and vehicle laws, as well as Motorcycle, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety.*

- A10563 – Referred to Transportation Committee
- S2114 - Referred to Transportation Committee

ABATE's position:

S2114 aligns strongly with ABATE's support for stronger deterrents and accountability for irresponsible and dangerous driving. Including the Motorcycle Safety requirement for licensing acknowledges riders' rights to safely share our roads and ensures that motorcycle specific risks are formally integrated into basic driving knowledge. Including the Vehicular Violence requirement aligns with ABATE's goal to reduce danger on New York roads through better informed drivers.

# A10708/S2436

*Prohibits the sale of ATVs and off-highway motorcycles in the city of New York; provides enforcement mechanisms and penalties.*

- A10708 referred to Cities Committee
- S2436 passed Senate

ABATE's position:

Such a blanket ban would unjustly restrict the rights of individuals to own and enjoy these recreational vehicles within city limits. While ABATE of NY acknowledges the need for responsible use and regulation of these vehicles to ensure public safety, it argues that a total ban is an overreaching measure that penalizes law-abiding enthusiasts. Rather than outright prohibition, ABATE of NY advocates for comprehensive education, training, and enforcement initiatives to promote safe and responsible ATV and off-highway motorcycle use.

# A6970/S7404

*Establishes the offense of Aggravated Reckless Driving, which involves harm to an identifiable person or property; and makes such offense bail-eligible.*

- A6970 referred to Transportation Committee
- S7404 referred to Transportation Committee

ABATE's position:

By elevating harmful reckless driving to a Class A misdemeanor, this bill enhances legal accountability and deterrence, and makes it bail eligible, enabling more robust enforcement. It aims to protect all road users, including motorcycle riders, pedestrians and bicycle riders, who often bear the brunt of reckless driving – from negligence or intentional violence.

# A966/S2308

*Relates to motorcycle awareness on state highways by affixing signs stating “Watch for Motorcycles.”*

- A966 referred to Transportation Committee
- S2308 referred to Transportation Committee

ABATE’s position:

By advocating for the installation of motorcycle awareness signs on state highways, ABATE aims to promote mutual respect and understanding between motorcyclists and other drivers. These signs serve as valuable reminders for motorists to remain vigilant and share the road responsibly, ultimately reducing the risk of collisions and injuries involving motorcycles.

# A6502/S2501

*Requires all applicants for Class D (drivers) and Class M (motorcycle) licenses – aged 18 or older - to complete at least six hours of supervised driving experience with a certified instructor before being eligible for their road test.*

- A6502 referred to Transportation Committee
- S2501 referred to Transportation Committee

ABATE's position:

ABATE of New York supports efforts to improve education and safety for all new drivers and motorcycle riders, and we agree that more training can lead to safer roads. However, we are concerned that mandating at least six hours of supervised instruction under a certified instructor could create barriers due to the cost of training, new "Supervised Driver Training Certificate" fees, and limited availability of certified instructors in many areas. We encourage lawmakers to explore ways to expand access to affordable training without placing undue financial or logistical burdens on riders or new drivers.

# A2552a/S3156

*Excepts violations pertaining to mufflers and exhaust systems for cars, motorcycle exhaust devices without internal baffles and motorcycle exhaust devices that are intentionally designed to allow for the internal baffling to be fully or partially removed or interchangeable from having a summons not issued or having a summons dismissed if the violation is corrected.*

- A2552a referred to Transportation Committee
- S3156 on floor calendar

ABATE's position:

This bill proposes essential exceptions for violations related to specific exhaust systems on motorcycles and other vehicles. By allowing for reasonable exceptions, A2552a/S3156 ensures that motorcyclists can enjoy the freedom to choose exhaust systems that meet both legal standards and their individual preferences without facing undue penalties.

# A5466/S9784

*Requires motorcycles to be registered at point of sale.*

ABATE of New York supports efforts to ensure that all motorcycles on our roads are registered and insured. We understand that this bill seeks to close a loophole that allows unregistered and uninsured motorcycles—to create safety and insurance/liability challenges across the state. However, we are also mindful that requiring registration at the point of sale could place new administrative burdens on dealers and potentially increase document fees for consumers. We encourage lawmakers to work with both the riding community and motorcycle dealers to implement a solution that promotes accountability without creating excessive costs or barriers for responsible riders.

A5466 - Referred to Transportation Committee

S5631 - Referred to Transportation Committee

# A5693/S4370

*Provides for congestion pricing for motorcycles in the central business district.*

- A5693 referred to Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions Committee
- S4370 referred to Transportation Committee

ABATE's position:

By introducing presumptions for reckless driving, this bill aims to hold accountable those who endanger others through their actions behind the wheel. Additionally, integrating a vehicular violence awareness component into the pre-licensing course underscores the importance of fostering a culture of responsibility and respect among drivers. ABATE of NY believes that such initiatives will not only enhance road safety but also contribute to a more informed and conscientious driving community. Through education and awareness, ABATE of NY seeks to reduce the incidence of reckless driving and vehicular violence, ultimately creating safer roads for all users in New York State.