

A.B.A.T.E. OF KANSAS, INC.



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Senate Committee on Transportation

TO: **CHAIR:** MIKE PETERSON

VICE CHAIR: JOHN DOLL

Ranking Minority Member: Pat Pettey

RE: HB 2194

From: ABATE of Kansas

Date: January 23, 2018

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Doll, Ranking Minority Member Pettey, and Members of the Committee.

I am Steve Christenberry, representing ABATE of Kansas, a motorcycle rights organization that is also a strong supporter of motorcycle rider education and training. I am a certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) RiderCoach and the president of Smart Motorcyclists Attend Rider Training, Inc., a program in Shawnee County that has provided motorcycle rider training since 1994.

In 2012 Representative Tom Sloan introduced HB2459, which modified the motorcycle licensing requirements for members of the military in K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 8-240. That bill, which passed both chambers and was signed into law, established a process where members of the military who successfully complete an approved course (specified in the DOD 6055.04 Traffic Safety Rules as the Motorcycle Safety Foundation curriculum), can simply take their driver's license, military ID, and the MSF completion card to Motor Vehicles and obtain the "M" endorsement on their license. HB2194 would extend that process to civilians, so that a person completing the course at a community college or USD could simply take their driver's license and the MSF completion card to Motor Vehicles and obtain the "M" endorsement. We believe that if the process is sufficient for the military it should certainly be good enough for civilians.

The following describes the processes currently required for licensing:

The Kansas Department of Education oversees motorcycle rider training, in addition to driver education and CDL training. Individuals successfully completing curriculum approved by the DOE, at programs located at community colleges or USDs, are awarded a completion certificate, the DE-99 (Driver Education 99) form that allows them to go to the Department of Motor Vehicles and obtain the "M" endorsement on their driver's license without having to do any further training. However, this process for the rider education programs is extremely burdensome and inefficient, requiring the collection of data from students, entering that data on a Department of Revenue website, printing off completion certificates, and then getting the certificates to the students. Of note is that motorcycle training courses are 20-22 hour classes typically held over a single weekend, unlike driver education classes that are over a period of multiple weeks. Approved motorcycle programs are directed to follow the same procedures as driver education programs, despite the fact that the

motorcyclists already have a driver's license, unlike students in driver education classes. The process is similar to trying to put a square peg in a round hole.

There is no fiscal note attached to this bill. In fact, it would reduce work the Department of Revenue currently does to process the DE-99s, as that step would be eliminated.

ABATE of Kansas and our members, as well as the motorcycle training community, support HB 2194, which the House Committee on Transportation approved and sent to the House, who voted unanimously to approve it. We encourage the Senate Committee on Transportation to do so as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Steve Christenberry

Lobbyist

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