

Anti-helmet drive starts a rumble in Lansing



Round one was won by the "Let those who ride decide" supporters who successfully convinced 57 Michigan legislators to vote to repeal the mandatory motorcycle helmet law. The bill must still pass in the senate before it goes before the governor, who has said he would veto such a bill. (Photo by Gary Caskey)

Motorcyclists tired of picking bugs from between their teeth may get a chance to try getting them out of their hair instead of a measure approved by the state house last week becomes law.

The bill eliminates helmet requirements for motorcycle riders and passengers over 18 years of age. Approved in a 57-37 house vote, the bill now goes for state senate consideration. The senate isn't expected to act until after the August primary elections.

House approval, however, came as good news to Garden City resident James Rhoades and ABATE, the organization he heads.

ABATE (A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Encroachments) is a group of motorcyclists who have opposed the helmet law since its inception. The groups' efforts to change the law have included quiet lobbying and publicly-aimed mass demonstrations.

"We're very pleased," said Rhoades. "Frankly, I was a little surprised at the margin. I really didn't expect to get that many votes."

Support appears more widespread in the senate than it was in the house, said Rhoades, who expects the bill to receive approval.

Opponents to repeal of the helmet law include Secretary of State Richard Austin. Opponents frequently cite lower death rates for motorcyclists since the institution of the helmet law. ABATE disagrees with those statistics because of a change in the method of keeping such statistics that came at the same time the helmet law did. ABATE is also seeking approval of a rider education course. ABATE's proposal would require cyclists under 18 take the course before they could

obtain licenses to ride motorcycles. "We have two rider education bills in the house appropriations committee presently," said Rhoades. "Basically, they'd require any new rider 18 or under to go through a mandatory rider education program. "We're going to really push for the rider education. It's a pretty positive

thing, and we've gotten good response from the reps and the senators. ABATE members believe helmets do little good in preventing head injuries in most accidents, and they think helmets may actually contribute to some neck injuries.

The group also believes the helmet law represents an unwarranted gov-

ernmental intrusion in private life. Since helmets interfere with the riders' hearing, and to a lesser extent with peripheral vision, ABATE believes helmets may actually help-cause accidents.



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Notice of ROBERT DONALD LECHE, Deceased NOTICE OF HEARING TAKE NOTICE: On the 29th day of June, 1978 at 9:30 A.M. in the Probate Courtroom, Oakland County Courthouse, Pontiac, Michigan before the Honorable EUGENE ARTHUR MOORE, Judge of Probate, a hearing will be held on the petition of Georgia Christina LeClair, The Will of the deceased dated April 21, 1977 was admitted to Probate. Administration of the estate was granted to Georgia Christina LeClair the executor named in said Will. Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate must be presented to Georgia Christina LeClair at 2276 Elmgrove, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48034 and proof thereof, with copies of the claims, filed with the Court on or before September 13, 1978.

Notice is further given that a determination of the legal heirs of said deceased will be made on said date at 9:30 A.M. Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned to the persons appearing of record entitled thereto.

Dated: June 8, 1978
Petitioner: Georgia Christina LeClair, 2276 Elmgrove, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48034
Newspaper: Farmington Observer & Economic
Publish: June 29, 1978

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