

Motorcyclists rally at state Capitol



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Tallahassee, Florida - Motorcyclists from around Florida rolled into Tallahassee on Monday and went to work lobbying on a variety of issues, including helmet laws.

Florida does not require bikers to wear helmets as long as they are 21 years of age and have insurance coverage of at least \$10,000 for injuries sustained on a motorcycle.

ABATE of Florida wants to keep it that way.

The group's president, "Doc" Reichenbach, says the group gets some flak occasionally for opposing helmet laws. But he says motorcycle deaths dropped about 25 percent in 2009 after ABATE sponsored an aggressive marketing campaign about motorcycle safety.

He says state statistics show that among the motorcyclist deaths that year, 35 percent were not wearing helmets and 65 percent did wear helmets.

"Now what does that tell you? It's safer to ride without one, or safer to ride with one. I leave it to you. What I tell you is, it's your right to decide for yourself," said Reichenbach.

ABATE is also pushing for tougher penalties for drivers who hit motorcyclists and cause a death. Reichenbach says too often drivers are getting off in such cases with a small fine.

Source: <http://www.wtsp.com/news/florida/article/186618/19/Motorcyclists-rally-at-state-Capitol?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cp>