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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ABATE of New York Opposes State's Repeated Raid of Motorcycle Safety Funds**

FROM: Timothy D. Werder, ABATE of New York State President

DATE: May 31, 2008

American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE of New York, Inc.) expresses its opposition to New York State's repeated record of raiding dedicated motorcycle safety funds, and demands that New York State stop unlawfully diverting motorcyclists' safety fund money to the general fund.

On April 1st, 1998, New York State increased the motorcycle registration fee from \$11.50 to \$14.00, with the increase to be deposited into a dedicated fund for New York State motorcycle safety. Article 15 of Vehicle & Traffic Law, Section 410.5 states the \$2.50 increase "...shall be deposited into the motorcycle safety fund" established pursuant to state finance law. Article 6, Section 92-g of State Finance Law states that the motorcycle safety fund shall be used "... only for the administration and implementation of the motorcycle safety program." Section 92-g further states that "...any moneys remaining in the fund shall be retained in the fund and shall not revert to the general fund. The interest and income earned on money in the fund... shall be credited to the fund."

Even though State Finance Law explicitly prohibits it, over the course of the ten-year existence of the motorcycle safety fund, New York State has repeatedly raided the dedicated funds, diverting massive amounts into the general fund. This year alone, \$552,000 has been diverted from the dedicated motorcycle safety fund into the state's general fund.

It is ABATE of New York's position that New York State inadequately provides services for the numbers of individuals seeking motorcycle training, has insufficient sites statewide to provide motorcycle training, and overcharges for motorcycle training. ABATE of New York feels that motorcyclists suffer due to the underutilization and misapplication of their funds, and that a more cost-effective approach could be implemented, subsidized by these raided funds.

ABATE of New York supports current legislative efforts A10732/S7976, prohibiting the transfer of unexpended moneys from funds receiving moneys from a dedicated fee into any other fund.

ABATE of New York was established in 1974, and incorporated in 1991 as a 501c4 not-for-profit corporation representing the rights of all New York State motorcyclists.

For further information, contact:

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