

Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:**

FL Joint Legislative Auditing Committee Not Interested In 2nd Audit

Tallahassee, FL, October 5, 2011 – An Orlando, FL TV station publicly insinuated there were improprieties when there were none. A small group of motorcyclists with questionable motives babbled nonsense, and still they failed to get anyone riled up. Finally, after a Florida Joint Legislative Auditing Committee hearing Monday the truth was known to all once again; ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. WAS IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATE CONTRACT and DID NOTHING WRONG.

Florida State Representative Bryan Nelson (R- Apopka) called for the committee to audit ABATE of Florida regarding how we allocated the state funds for our Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program. He also asked why a specific vendor received a volume of the business from this contract, clearly trying to imply numerous improprieties. However, the other members of the Committee did not agree with Nelson, and a few stated that there had already been a state-funded audit which revealed the appropriated funds "were spent in a manner pursuant with the contract". Additionally, ABATE of Florida State President James "Doc" Reichenbach, II testified that the specific vendor in question was a Florida-based minority vendor, one recommended to ABATE by the FL Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

Next, Senate Minority Leader Maria Sachs (D-District 30) again questioned what triggered this interest in ABATE and the request for the additional audit. She'd heard there is a "disgruntled other organization" that is unhappy with ABATE and that since there was no proven evidence of misappropriation of state funds there is no need to spend additional state money by investigating this matter further.

Besides Rep. Nelson, the only other person present to testify in favor of spending additional state money by having a 2nd audit was "R.C." Conroy. R.C. spoke of the 2004 Bill CS/CS/SB 682 as if it were current law. In fact, this Bill failed in committee over six years ago. Other interesting statements offered by R.C. included that Bikers of Lesser Tolerance's (BOLT) purpose & mission is to "give up a little bit of safety to maintain your rights" as well as to "take various municipalities to court". Besides his antagonistic statements, R.C. did not speak of any organization of which he is involved that educates the public to become more aware of the motorcycles sharing Florida's roadways. Nor did he offer any method to improve motorcycle safety awareness in any way.

Representative Ken Roberson (R-Port Charlotte) further commented that in his area of Florida, ABATE of Florida is the organization that is promoting motorcycle safety.

Senator Evelyn Lynn (R-District 7) noted that it appears ABATE is interested in the greater safety of the motorcyclists. After hearing R.C. speak, Representative Nelson immediately withdrew his request for a second audit of ABATE of Florida, Inc.

A copy of the entire section of this hearing regarding ABATE of Florida is available on our website with this Press Release.

A print copy of this and past ABATE of Florida, Inc. Press Releases may be found here: www.abateflorida.com/pr.htm.

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