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SCR-52 Motorcycle Awareness Month. (2019-2020)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52

CHAPTER 87

Relative to Motorcycle Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 14, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 52, Jones. Motorcycle Awareness Month.

This measure designates the month of May 2019 as Motorcycle Awareness Month in California.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Motorcycle riding is a popular form of efficient transportation and recreation for more than 1,500,000 Californians. Motorcycles account for less than 5 percent of registered vehicles in the United States, and they travel approximately 21,000,000 miles each year. Motorcycles provide a means of transportation that uses fewer resources, causes less wear and tear on public roadways, and increases available parking areas; and

WHEREAS, Through the California Motorcyclist Safety Program (CMSP) and its provider, Total Control Training, the state has trained almost 58,000 riders in 2016, 53,000 riders in 2017, and 55,000 riders in 2018. The administration of the CMSP by the Department of the California Highway Patrol since 1987, along with the assistance of the California Office of Traffic Safety, through education, and the Department of Transportation's message boards, has safely trained 1,200,000 Californians. These efforts led to a 92.4 percent reversal of the trend of increasing motorcycle fatalities. From 2009 to 2014, motorcycle fatalities in California increased 7.9 percent per year. In contrast, from 2014 to 2017, motorcycle fatalities in California increased only 0.6 percent per year. At the same time, total traffic fatalities in California increased by 4.6 percent per year, and nationwide, motorcycle fatalities increased by an average of 4.7 percent per year. California leads the way in training and safety for motorcyclists, and we are saving lives; and

WHEREAS, It is important that drivers of all vehicles be aware of one another, learn to share the road, and practice courtesies, especially when motorcyclists are legally lane splitting; and

WHEREAS, The California Motorcyclist Safety Program, American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education (ABATE) of California, American Motorcyclist Association, National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers Motorcycle Club, Bay Area Riders Forum, Modified Motorcycle Association, and the California Motorcycle Dealers Association are organizations that actively promote the safe operation of motorcycles, advocate for more rider training courses through CMSP and its provider, Total Control Training, and advocate increasing motorist recognition of motorcycles; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the month of May 2019 as Motorcycle Awareness Month in California, acknowledges the need for awareness on the part of all

drivers, especially with regard to sharing the road with motorcycles, and honors motorcyclists' many contributions to the communities in which they live and ride; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.