

HB

262



SENATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

State Capitol, Room 11
Juneau AK, 99801-1182
907-465-6828

To: Senate Transportation Committee Members

From: Albert M. Kookesh, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
465-6828

Date: March 25, 2010

Re: Senate Transportation Committee
For the week of March 29 – April 2, 2010

@Kookesh

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

No meeting scheduled

Thursday, April 1, 2010—1:00pm to 2:00pm, Butrovich Room # 205

CSHB 262: An Act establishing the month of May as Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness. Sponsor: Representative Wes Keller

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:

600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Phone (907) 373-1842
Fax: (907) 373-4729*



Session:

State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2186
Fax: (907) 465-3818

REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14 MEMO

To: Senator Albert Kookesh, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee

Fm: Representative Wes Keller

W.K.

Date: March 24, 2010

Re: Request for Hearing on CSHB 262 (26-LS1130R)

Please consider this as a request for you to schedule CSHB 262- "Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness Month" for consideration before the Senate Transportation Committee. I have included a packet of information and will provide your committee staff a .pdf version.

CSHB 262 will declare the month of May as Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness Month. This has traditionally been done each year by the Governor, usually several weeks prior to May. Unfortunately, this often makes it difficult for the Alaska Motorcycle Safety Foundation and other organizations to plan and schedule events and programs during what has become the National Awareness month.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office.

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Thank you

E-Mail: Representative_Wes_Keller@legis.state.ak.us
Call Juneau Toll free: (800) 468-2186
Website: www.akRepublicans.org/keller/

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14

Sponsor Statement CS for House Bill 262

“An Act establishing the month of May as Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness Month.”

For many people visiting Alaska each summer one of the surprises is how many motorcycles are on the road. That's because Alaskans enjoy the warm weather which usually begins shortly after the road are clear of ice and snow and lasts until the snow comes again.

This normally means that riders are on the streets and roads earlier and later during the year than in most parts of the lower 48. Typically May is considered the month when the majority of street legal bikes are up and running. With this thought the Motorcycle Safety Foundation launches a campaign for motorcycle awareness and safety. Alaska has followed this lead but currently requires special attention from the Governor in the form of a declaration.

CS for House Bill 262 will change that, making May officially Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness Month in Alaska. This change allows members of the Alaska Motorcycle Safety Commission to plan for the campaign in advance. Material that center on safety serve as a reminder to vehicle drivers that motorcycles are back on the street and to motorcycle riders to keep an eye on those drivers not yet use to seeing them.

Support for May as Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness month is a no cost way to support traffic safety projects in Alaska.

E-Mail: [Representative Wes Keller@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Wes_Keller@legis.state.ak.us)
Call Juneau Toll free: (800) 468-2186
Website: www.akRepublicans.org/keller/

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 262(TRA)
(H) Publish Date: 3/19/10

Identifier (file name): HB262-DOT-CO-3-17-10 Dept. Affected: DOT&PF
Title: Motorcycle Awareness Month RDU: Administration and Support
Sponsor: Rep. Keller Component: Commissioner's Office
Requester: H TRA Component Number: 530

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is no fiscal impact to the department.

Prepared by: Mary Siroky, Legislative Liaison
Division: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Approved by: Frank Richards, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Phone 465-4772
Date/Time 3/17/2010 10:15:00AM
Date 3/17/2010

LESSMEIER & WINTERS

LAWYERS - LLC

VINTAGE BUSINESS PARK
3000 VINTAGE BOULEVARD
SUITE 100
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

MICHAEL L. LESSMEIER
GREGORY W. LESSMEIER
SHELDON E. WINTERS

TELEPHONE: (907) 796-4999
FACSIMILE: (907) 796-4998
E-MAIL: lw@gci.net

February 16, 2010

Honorable Representative Keller
State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 262 – May as Motorcycle Awareness Month

Dear Representative Keller:

On behalf of State Farm I am pleased to voice State Farm's support for HB 262. Safety awareness programs are always a good thing; indeed they truly translate into a reduction in accidents and injuries, and even save lives. If there is any information State Farm can provide to assist in moving this bill forward, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

By: 
Sheldon E. Winters
State Farm Alaska Lobbyist

cc: Honorable Representative Herron – State Capitol Room 411
Honorable Representative Peterson – State Capitol Room 422
Honorable Representative Lynn – State Capitol Room 104
Honorable Representative Seaton – State Capitol Room 102
Honorable Representative Stoltze – State Capitol Room 515
Honorable Representative Ramras – State Capitol Room 120

HB 262-0151 W

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

The Honorable Wes Keller
State Representative
State Capitol #13
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Keller:

on behalf of Harley-Davidson Motor Company, I want to thank you for introducing House Bill 262, relating to Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

Motorcycle Safety is an important factor in our sport. By recognizing this, you have put a big spotlight on our issues. For that, thank you.

Best of luck this season.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company
3700 W. Lincoln Ave. #100
Milwaukee, WI 53208
Tel: 414.442.4080 Fax: 414.442.4081
http://www.harleydavidson.com

Michael D. Richards
Manager, Government Affairs

Ride Free,
- Michael Richards

P.S. My best friend from high school is proud to call
Wesley, AK home - he loves it here, and I need
to come visit.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH FACT SHEET

Overview

Despite significant gains since the enactment of Federal motor vehicle and highway safety legislation in the mid 1960's, the annual toll of traffic crashes remains tragically high. Recent data indicate that deaths and injuries attributable to motorcycle crashes are becoming a larger portion of this grave public health problem. Motorcycle crash-related fatalities have been increasing since 1997, while injuries have been increasing since 1999.

Many motorcycle deaths could be prevented if motorcyclists would take responsibility for ensuring they have done everything possible to make the ride safe by wearing helmets and other protective gear that increases their visibility to other motorists, riding sober and taking rider training classes.

Mission

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month is a national initiative aimed at getting motorists and motorcyclists to "Share the Road" with each other.

Share the Road Model Language

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has developed model "Share the Road" language by reviewing materials currently being used by safety, and motorcycle safety agencies and a variety of national organizations that have a vested interest in motorcycle safety. These materials included operator licensing manuals, public service announcements, brochures, pamphlets, posters, and Internet Web sites. The agency identified the common themes and language from these materials that serve to effectively convey the importance of sharing the road safely with motorcyclists.

We encourage local, State, and national organizations to use the following model Share the Road language in their motorists awareness programs:

- * Motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any vehicle on the roadway.
- * Allow the motorcyclist a full lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in the traffic lane for an automobile and a motorcycle, remember the motorcycle needs the room to maneuver safely. Do not share the lane.
- * Motorcycles are small and may be difficult to see. Motorcycles have a much smaller profile than vehicles, which can make it more difficult to judge the speed and distance of an approaching motorcycle.
- * Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.

* Remember that motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

* Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.

* Remember that road conditions that are minor annoyances to motorists can pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Motorcyclists may change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement.

* Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, following a motorcycle so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. In dry conditions motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.

Motorcyclist Deaths are Rising.

In 2007, motorcycle rider fatalities increased for the tenth straight year.

During 2007, 5,154 motorcyclists lost their lives in fatal highway crashes.

Fifty percent of all motorcycles involved in fatal crashes collided with another type of motor vehicle in transport. In two-vehicle crashes, 78 percent of the motorcycles involved were struck in the front. Only 5 percent were struck in the rear.

Over, 90 percent of all two-vehicle crashes involving a motorcycle and a passenger vehicle in which the motorcycle rider died occurred on non-interstate roadways.

Fifty percent or more of all two-vehicle crashes involving a motorcycle and a passenger vehicle in which the motorcycle rider died were intersection crashes.

In 2007, there were 2,332 two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a motorcycle and another type of vehicle. In 40 percent of these crashes, the other vehicle was turning left while the motorcycle was going straight, passing, or overtaking the vehicle.

2009 MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH PLANNER SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

Note: before filling in the names of the Organization and Organization spokesperson, you MUST contact them to obtain their permission to use their names in this press release, and you must get their approval for the language of their quotations, and any changes or additions they may require. Only after this is done should you send out the press release.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]
CONTACT: [Name, Phone Number, E-mail]

[Local Organization] Promotes “Sharing the Road” with Motorcycles by Joining Efforts with State and Federal Partners *May 2009 Proclaimed Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.*

[City, State] – Motorcyclists fatalities have steadily increased over the past decade. In fact, in 2007, there was a seven percent increase in fatalities from 4,837 in 2006, to 5,154.

That’s why [Local Organization] announced today that they are joining with other federal, State and local highway safety, law enforcement, and motorcycle organizations in proclaiming May 2009 as “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.” All motorists are reminded to safely “Share the Road” with motorcycles and to be extra alert when driving to help keep motorcyclists safe. Motorcyclists are reminded to make themselves visible to other motorists in case other drivers are not looking out for motorcycle riders.

“As the weather improves, more and more motorcyclists are hitting the roads. And with that in mind, drivers of all vehicles, whether you’re driving an SUV, passenger car or truck, need to be extra attentive and make sure you “Share the Road,”” said [Local Leader]. “Motorcycles are some of the smallest vehicles on our roads, often hidden in a vehicle’s blind spot so everyone needs to really look out for them.”

It’s crucial that motorists always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

“Motorcyclists have responsibilities, too,” said [Local Leader]. “They should follow the rules of the roadway, be alert to other drivers, and always wear a DOT-compliant helmet and other protective gear.”

[Local Leader] said that motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than passenger vehicle occupants in the event of a crash. [He/she] said that research shows that per vehicle mile traveled, motorcyclists are about 37 times more likely than a passenger car occupant to die in a traffic crash.

[Local Leader] offered several tips for drivers to help keep motorcyclists safe on our roadways:

* Remember the motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle on the roadway. Always allow a motorcyclist the full lane width—never try to share a lane;

* Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections;

* Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic;

* Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals are often not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed;

* Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when behind a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. And don't tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.

[Local Leader] said motorcyclists can increase their safety by:

* Avoid riding in poor weather conditions.

* Wearing brightly colored protective gear and a DOT-compliant helmet;

* Using turn signals for every turn or lane change, even if the rider thinks no one will see it;

* Combining hand and turn signals to draw more attention to themselves;

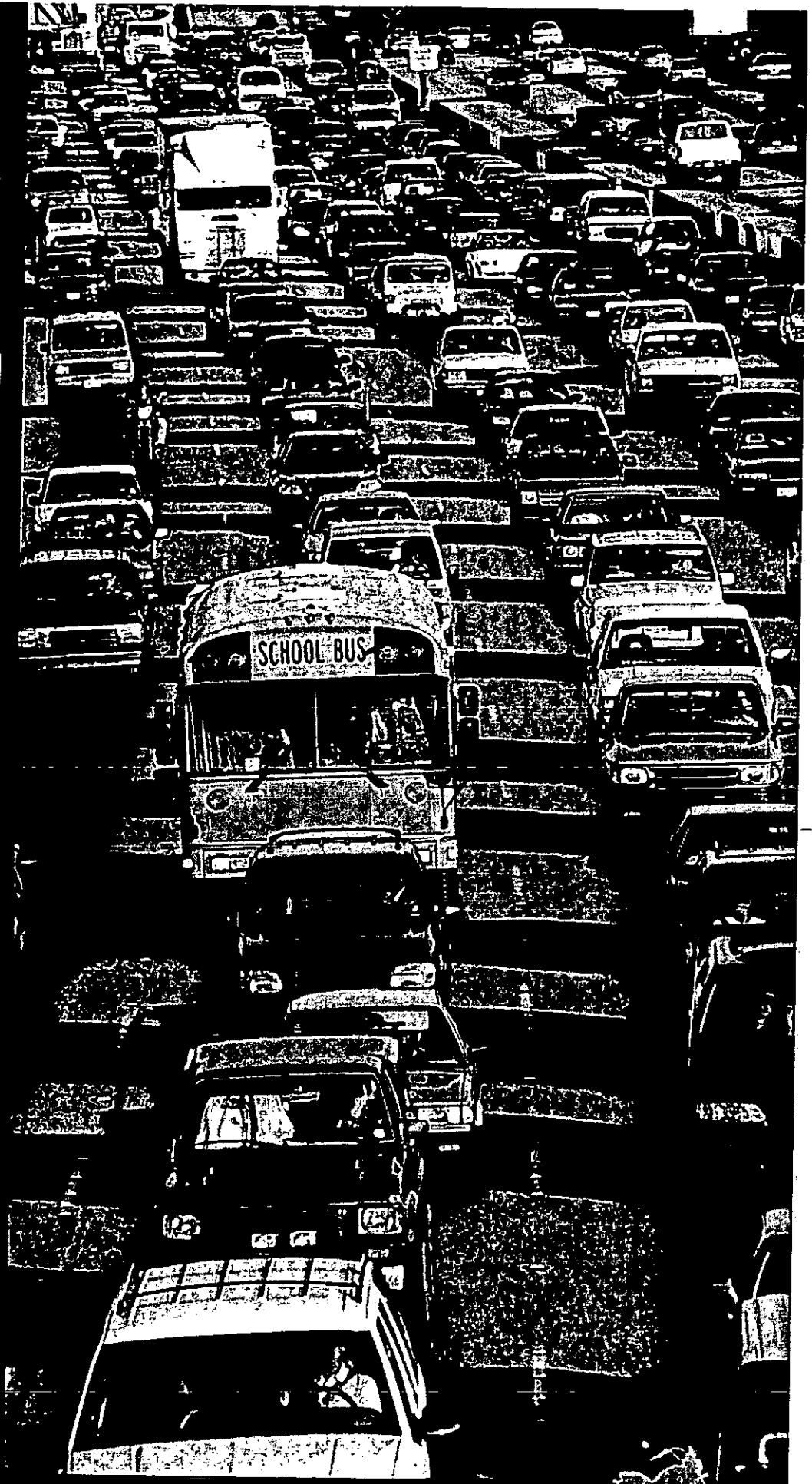
* Using reflective tape and stickers to increase conspicuity; and

* Positioning themselves in the lane where they will be most visible to other drivers.

Our message to all drivers and motorcyclists is: make this the first year in recent years when motorcycle fatalities do not increase. Help to share in the responsibility and do your part by safely "Sharing the Road."

Spotting a
motorcycle
on the
road can
be just
as hard
as finding
one in
this picture.

Keep an eye out
for motorcycles.



Share the road with motorcycles





OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE MORE
VULNERABLE THAN THEY APPEAR.



Share the road with motorcycles



HELP US KEEP MOTORCYCLES SAFE AND UNENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

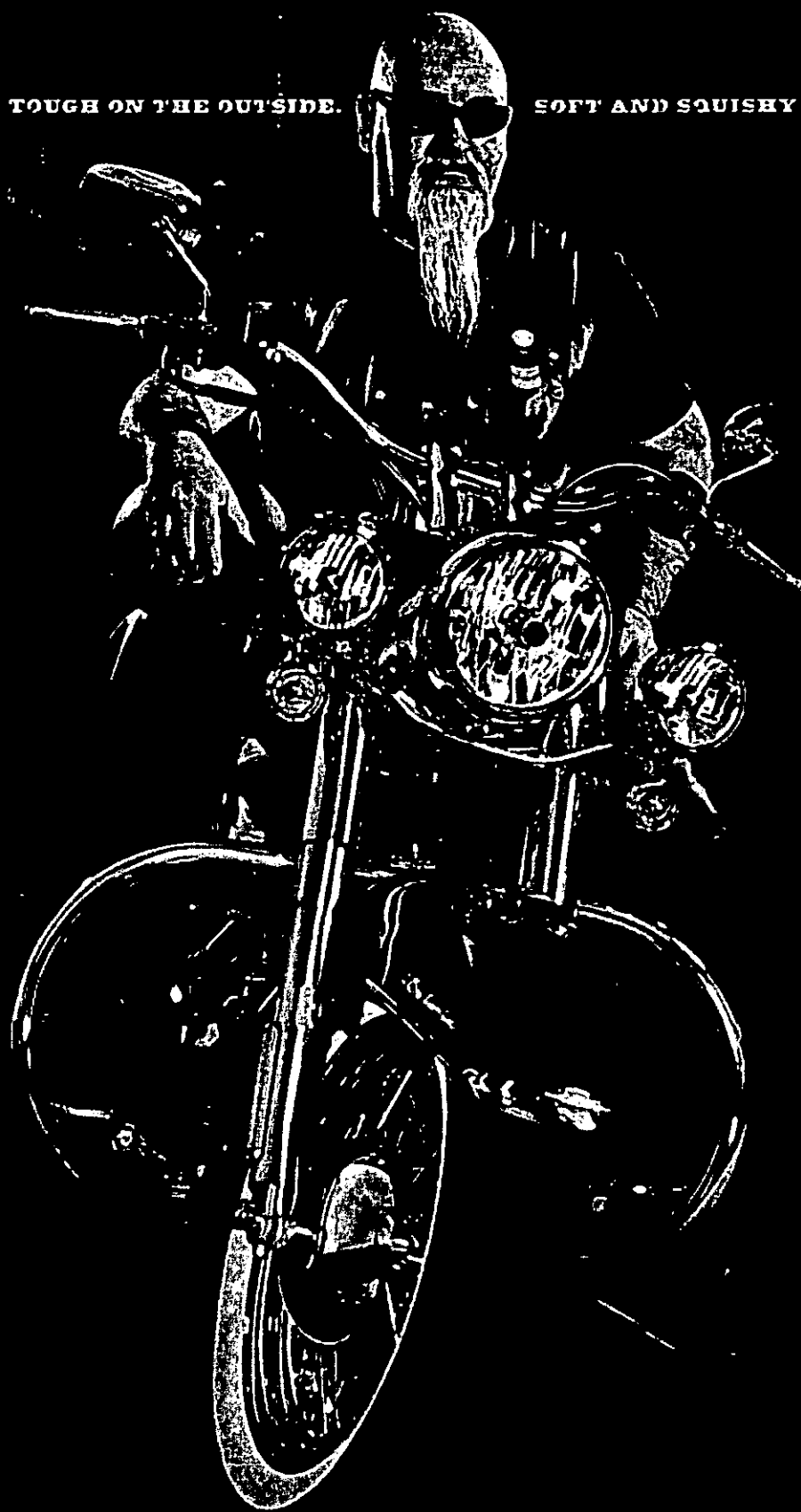


Share the road with motorcycles



TOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE.

SOFT AND SQUISHY ON THE INSIDE.



Share the road with motorcycles

