

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1-17-05
HB 186

January 15, 2005

To: House Transportation Committee

RE: House Bill 186

Chairman Scott Mendenhall and committee members

The following statements regarding HB 186 are offered from the Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association, a group of off highway motorcycle riders from Great Falls and the surrounding communities. Our membership of several hundred is comprised of families who recreate on public land in Montana.

We had received information that the bill may be amended to correct some of our concerns. As of this date, the text available has not changed.

We are concerned with new Section 1 describing a motorized nonstandard vehicle, (a) not designed for use on a public highway & (b) not displaying a 17 character VIN. Many of our vehicles have been converted to street legal machines so that we may legally ride the county roads and Forest Service roads that connect the different trail systems that we ride. The bill appears to eliminate the conversion of these machines and consequently our use of these roads. This impact would eliminate almost all of the recreational opportunities available to us today. While the 17-character VIN number appears to cover our vehicles, we are still concerned that the law could be misinterpreted to make converted OHVs with 17 digit VINs ineligible for licensing.

The second concern is Section 8, (2),(i) "may create separate categories of motorcycle endorsements, based on engine displacement, for motorcycles and motor-driven cycles." We oppose this section and would ask that it be removed from the bill. Basing operator licensing on the displacement of the machine does not seem appropriate. Giving the Department complete latitude in making a policy that would affect many without legislative oversight or notice of intent to the Montana motorcycle community is unfair.

Please take our concerns into consideration when this bill is presented.

Sincerely,
Mona Ehnes, President
Great Falls Trail bike Riders Association
PO Box 602
Great Falls, MT 59403



Inspection Checklist For Motorcycles

Fee - none

Additional fees and taxes may be
due upon registration

Office Use Only

1003 Buckskin Drive Deer Lodge, MT 59722 • Phone (406) 846-6000 Fax (406) 846-6039 • mvdtitleinfo@state.mt.us

Every Motorcycle, including Quadri-cycles, which will be operated on the highways of the State of Montana, shall be equipped with the following as required in Title 61, Chapter 9, MCA.

1. Head Lamps -- all boxes must be checked

- 1 and not more than 2 head lamps on the front of the motorcycle
- Positioned not more than 54 inches nor less than 24 inches from the middle of the lamps to the ground
- High beam appears to be of such intensity to project 350 feet
- Low beam appears to be of such intensity to project 100 feet

2. Tail Lamps -- all boxes must be checked

- 1 tail lamp mounted on rear of cycle
- Appears to be visible at least 500 feet from rear, red in color
- Positioned not more than 72 inches nor less than 15 inches from the ground
- Tail lamp to illuminate rear license plate, and appears to be visible at least 50 feet from rear, white in color
- Tail lamp to be lighted whenever head lamps are lighted

3. Reflectors -- all boxes must be checked

- At least 1 reflector (separate or part of tail lamp)
- Positioned not more than 60 inches nor less than 15 inches from the ground to middle of the reflector
- Appears to be visible from a distance of 50-300 feet
- 1 reflector mounted on cycle, red in color to rear, amber or white to front

4. Stop Lamps -- if equipped both boxes must be checked

- Stop lamp incorporated into tail lamp, red in color
- Appears to be visible from a distance of 100 feet in normal sunlight

5. Brakes -- box must be checked

- Equipped with brakes on all wheels -- appear to be in good working condition -- must be in compliance with federal standards and with Title 61, Chapter 9, MCA.

6. Horn -- all boxes must be checked

- Cannot be unreasonably loud, harsh sounding or a whistle
- Appears to be audible from a distance of at least 200 feet
- Constructed so as to be controlled by driver
- Electronic

7. Mufflers -- both boxes must be checked

- Muffler system to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke
- No fuller cut-outs, bypasses or similar devices shall be used

8. Mirror -- box must be checked

- At least one mirror attached to vehicle to reflect to driver a view of the highway at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle

9. Tires -- check 1 -- no metal tires allowed

- Solid rubber tires, having rubber on entire traction surface one (1) inch thick above edge of flange on the entire periphery
- Low pressure pneumatic tires are allowed

10. Minimum Speed -- box must be checked

- Vehicles unable to travel more than 25 mph must have a slow-moving vehicle sign displayed on such vehicle

Vehicle Description

Year	Make	Model	Body Style	# of wheels	# of cc's
License Plate Number	Expiration Date	Vehicle Identification Number		State of Registration	
Owner/Applicant Name					
Address			City/State/Zip		

Unsworn Falsification to Authorities: I certify under penalty of law (Section 45-7-203, MCA) that the statements made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that this motorcycle/quadric-cycle is street legal.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20 _____

Applicant signature - this is my legal signature _____

Printed name _____