

# *Bruce on Bikers' Rights*

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March 2008

**LET'S UNSEAT THOSE WHO WOULD UNSADDLE US**  
*Make Anti-Biker Politicos Pay A Penalty At The Polls!*

*"Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished  
by being governed by those who are dumber."--Plato*

*"I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter  
to be left to the politicians."--Charles de Gaulle*



The focus of this article is **HB-137**, proposed legislation which will authorize the seizure of motorcycles and revocation of motorcycle endorsements in the State of Florida. I am broadcasting this nationwide because **if this bill becomes law it will affect ALL bikers**: If you ride to Daytona for Bikeweek, you will be subject to these draconian provisions. And even if you don't, passage of this bill will set a precedent for similar legislation to show up in *your own statehouse*. So please read on ... and please do whatever you can to help us kill this legislation and remove from office the anti-motorcycle politicians who sponsor and support it.

I do not know what the amended wording of HB-137 is as of this writing...

<http://tinyurl.com/2zxun2>

...nor do I know when we can expect their next move on related Senate bill SB-802:

<http://tinyurl.com/yuzl2r>

What I do know is that ANY legislation that empowers Big Brother to revoke my motorcycle endorsement or seize my motorcycle for ANY reason is legislation to which I am opposed!

Thanks in large part to our own political apathy and lobbying impotence, on 13 March 2008 a group of anti-biker politicos--*many of whom were elected without opposition in 2006, and as of yet face no opposition in 2008*--gave HB-137 the approval of the Florida House Committee on Infrastructure by a 9 to 1 vote (see who voted how below). **We must see that HB-137 does not pass in the Florida House, and that SB-802 is killed in the Florida Senate.** If you do not know what you can do personally to assist in this regard, I encourage you to contact your nearest SMRO chapter for guidance. If such guidance is not provided when requested, I encourage you to challenge your SMRO leadership.

Beyond that, I want to encourage **all bikers everywhere** to start paying more attention to who we are electing to office, and to what legislation they sponsor or support once they get there. We need to show legislators everywhere that sponsoring or supporting anti-motorcycle legislation will have serious political consequences. And the best way to do that is to work openly and aggressively to oppose the re-election--and hopefully terminate the political careers--of those who legislate against us. Let's support those who support us (like Greg Evers did), *and...*

**Let's unseat those who would unsaddle us!** It's high time we started making anti-biker politicians pay a penalty at the polls. We can start with the sponsor and supporters of HB-137, key information about whom I provide below. They are all up for re-election this year, so let's do what we can to boot them out of office. And by "we", I don't just mean those of us who live in their districts ... or even in Florida: If they are running unopposed, let's find a qualified candidate to run against them. If they have opposition that is (or could be persuaded to be) sympathetic to our cause, let's get them elected (and never let them forget how they got there). And if they have skeletons in the closet (as most of them do), let's dig'em out and help the media dish the dirt.

Remember, *"It's not about FAIR."*

Bruce Arnold

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Co-Moderator, Bruce-n-Ray's Biker Forum  
Premier Member, Iron Butt Association  
Sustaining Member, Motorcycle Riders Foundation  
2007 Chairman's Circle, American Motorcyclist Association

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This is the sponsor of HB-137:

Representative Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R)  
carlos.lopez-cantera@myfloridahouse.gov  
District 113 Office:  
Suite 111  
2300 Coral Way  
Miami, FL 33145-3511  
Phone: (305) 442-6877  
2006 Election Results: Unopposed  
Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: Betancourt, Javier (D)

District Map & Statistics:

[http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FileStores/Web/District/H406H020\\_district\\_113wmap.pdf](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FileStores/Web/District/H406H020_district_113wmap.pdf)

[http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FileStores/Web/District/HD\\_113.pdf](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FileStores/Web/District/HD_113.pdf)

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These 9 Infrastructure Committee Members voted \*\*\*FOR\*\*\* HB-137:

Representative Gary Aubuchon (R)  
[gary.aubuchon@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:gary.aubuchon@myfloridahouse.gov)

District 74 Office:

Suite 305

3501 Del Prado Boulevard

Cape Coral, FL 33904-7223

Phone: (239) 344-4900

2006 Election Results: Unopposed

Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: NONE

Representative Susan Bucher (D)  
[susan.bucher@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:susan.bucher@myfloridahouse.gov)

District 88 Office:

Suite 102

2240 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard

West Palm Beach, FL 33409-3403

Phone: (561) 682-0156

2006 Election Results: Unopposed

Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: Pafford, Mark S. (D)

Representative Richard "Rich" Glorioso (R)  
[rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov)

District 62 Office:

Suite 204

110 W. Reynolds Street

Plant City, FL 33563-3379

Phone: (813) 757-9110

2006 Election Results: Won 26,994 to 12,850 over Jeremy Zelanis (D)

Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: NONE

Representative Ed Hooper (R)  
[ed.hooper@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:ed.hooper@myfloridahouse.gov)

District 50 Office:

Suite 206

2963 Gulf to Bay Boulevard

Clearwater, FL 33759-4259

Phone: (727) 724-3000

2006 Election Results: Won 21,138 to 17,525 over Candice Jovan (D)

Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: McMullen, Neil (D)

Representative Jimmy Patronis (R)  
[jimmy.patronis@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:jimmy.patronis@myfloridahouse.gov)  
District 6 Office:  
Suite A  
455 Harrison Avenue  
Panama City, FL 32401-2775  
Phone: (850) 914-6300  
2006 Election Results: Won 28,688 to 14,049 over Janice Lucas (D)  
Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: NONE

Representative Stephen L. Precourt (R)  
[steve.precourt@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:steve.precourt@myfloridahouse.gov)  
District 41 Office:  
310 South Dillard Street  
Suite 400  
Winter Garden, FL 34787-3515  
Phone: (407) 814-6138  
2006 Election Results: Won 28,077 to 20,270 over Bill McManus (D)  
Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: NONE

Representative Michael Scionti (D)  
[michael.scionti@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:michael.scionti@myfloridahouse.gov)  
District 58 Office:  
Suite 102  
4221 North Himes Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33607-6228  
Phone: (813) 673-4674  
2006 Election Results: Won 16,393 to 7,404 over Alfred Ruiz (R)  
Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: Vazquez, Jose (D)

Rep. Kelly Skidmore (D)  
[kelly.skidmore@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:kelly.skidmore@myfloridahouse.gov)  
District 90 Office:  
Suite 205  
7100 W. Camino Real Boulevard  
Boca Raton, FL 33433-5510  
Phone: (561) 470-6593  
2006 Election Results: Unopposed  
Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: NONE

Representative Nicholas R. "Nick" Thompson (R)  
[nick.thompson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:nick.thompson@myfloridahouse.gov)  
District 73 Office:  
Suite 208  
2120 Main Street  
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3010  
Phone: (239) 533-2411  
2006 Election Results: Won 18,324 to 16,272 over Pete Burkert  
Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: NONE

This 1 Infrastructure Committee Member voted \*\*\*AGAINST\*\*\* HB-137:

Representative Greg Evers (R)

[greg.evers@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:greg.evers@myfloridahouse.gov)

District 1 Office:

5224 Willing Street

Milton, FL 32570-4971

Phone: (850) 983-5550

2006 Election Results: Unopposed

Declared Opposition Candidates as of 03/14/2008: NONE

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Source links:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/representatives.aspx?SessionId=57>

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/elections/officesup/08officesup.shtml>

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/cand/Index.asp>

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/elections/resultsarchive/Index.asp?ElectionDate=11/7/2006&DATA MODE=>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Arnold [mailto:[Bruce@LdrLongDistanceRider.com](mailto:Bruce@LdrLongDistanceRider.com)]

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2008 8:31 AM

To: 'carlos.lopez-cantera@myfloridahouse.gov'

Cc: 'gary.aubuchon@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'susan.bucher@myfloridahouse.gov';

'greg.evers@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov';

'ed.hooper@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'jimmy.patronis@myfloridahouse.gov';

'steve.precourt@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'scott.randolph@myfloridahouse.gov';

'nick.thompson@myfloridahouse.gov'

Subject: HB 137 Has You Speeding Recklessly Towards the Loss of Your Next Election

To Carlos Lopez-Cantera:

Be advised that the legislation you propose as "HB 137 - Offenses Committed While Operating a Motorcycle" is unconstitutionally discriminatory. If enacted, it would not survive its first contest in the courts. All you will have done is waste a lot of people's time and money, and guarantee yourself and your supporters stiff opposition at the polls and seriously diminished future political prospects.

Bruce Arnold

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