



A.B.A.T.E.

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education

ABATE Off-Road Division

February 22, 2013

by Nick Benson Sr.

ABATE of California's Off-Road division is off and running! We are still looking for new members and are working our butts off to get rid of negative legislation that has been aimed at off-roaders. We have been working with our representatives and at the time this is going to print; we have three bills headed to legislation to help undo the harm AB 1595 has done! [Join now](#) and help us to help you!

ABATE of California Off-Road is sponsoring Assemblyman Tim Donnelly's AB 64 which would amend AB 1595 (Congressman Paul Cook's outlandish bill that severely restricts Side X Side modifications, mandates helmet usage, and outlaws aftermarket back seats). After careful consideration, it was decided by all parties that Donnelly's original full repeal of AB 1595 probably would not pass, so instead, Donnelly amended it to (1) exempt all Side X Sides built before January 1, 2014 from the after-market back seat prohibition portion of the bill and (2) would exempt children from wearing a helmet if they are strapped into a child safety seat. We feel that this amended bill has a better chance of passing than Donnelly's original bill and will give us a "foot in the door" for future changes to AB 1595.

Also stepping into the arena are two awesome Senators – Mimi Walters (R Irvine, Senate District 37) and Jean Fuller (R Bakersfield, Senate District 18). As a side note; if all our representatives had staff members as astute and prompt as Jessica LaMaack from Senator Fuller's office, our government would have a much higher constituent rating. Jessica is incredible! A couple of well-liked Senators, who (like us) believe in freedom, can only be a plus for us!

Senator Mimi Walters has introduced SB 234 which will amend AB 1595 in the following ways; 1) would make mandatory helmets inapplicable to children secured into an appropriate passenger restraint system with specified requirements, 2) would allow non-factory seats in Side X Sides built before January 1, 2014 if the occupant of that seat is fully contained within the vehicle's rollover protection structure (roll cage), and 3) would repeal the mandate for all passengers to be able to grasp the grab bars while secured in a passenger seat and seated upright with their back against the seat. Senator Walters bill goes a little bit further than Donnelly's. Thirty days after being introduced, Senator Walter's SB 234 may be amended slightly or "tweaked" to clarify any questions.

Senator Jean Fuller has introduced SB 334 as a "plan B" should Assemblyman Donnelly's AB 64 and Senator Walter's SB 234 fail to pass. SB 334 would amend AB 1595 with new language that would delay implementation of the non-factory back seats prohibition until January 1, 2015. This bill was introduced as an "urgency" bill meaning it will be heard sooner and if passed, implemented immediately. Senator Fuller's SB 334 will ensure ample amount of time to amend AB 1595 in the event of AB 64 and SB 234 not passing.

The time is now for all off-roaders to jump in and join the fight to retain our off-roading freedoms. We must be proactive in stopping this type of legislation before it takes us by surprise again! Join ABATE's Off-Road Division now by logging onto www.abate.org and click on the "Protect Your Rights" for a downloadable form, or sign up on-line, or email me at nick@abate.org!

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