

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1837

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & CIVIL JURISPRUDENCE

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Hearing Date: March 31, 2021 8:00 AM

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Richard Gryder, Chaplain

TXCOC&I

Leander, TX

This is a greater need than you might imagine. Several states have already passed similar laws and the federal Senate passed a bipartisan resolution for this same need over a year ago.

Passing this bill not only prevents unjust profiling, but it will also save the state millions in litigation and judgements.

Gene Krider

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please support HB1837

Bjarte Moe

Self/ MC rider

Liberty Hill, TX

In a society as ours having equal rights and opportunities be ones more and more challenging as we all get fragmented into small slices in society. More often do we see individuals and groups of people be disrespected fir their beliefs, hobbies and interested. More specifically, MC riders are being frowned upon, being labeled and wrongfully and illegally classified, disrespected and treated as if we don't share the same rights we all are entitled to and have fought for.

Please support this bill and bring an end to yet another area of injustice to a minority group, yet a powerful group of more than 300,000 enthusiastic people who share the joy and thrill of riding motorcycles.

Bjarte Moe

Enthusiast

Bradley King

self

Cedar Park, TX

Our community has witnessed the arbitrary inclusion of motorcyclists into the Texas Gang Database who do not have an affiliation with known or defined street gangs identified by Texas DPS threat assessment reports. Although this was designed to be an investigatory tool not to infringe on anyone's rights, it has turned into a punitive list to chill Constitutional rights as agreed upon by two Federal judges in El Paso and Bexar Counties. Many others have come forward reporting their inclusion and describing the impossible task of getting off of the list and the negative impact it has had on their professional and personal lives. All without due process. There are over 330,000 motorcyclists in the great State of Texas and I am asking for your support to this legislation to secure all of our rights for the future.

Delbert "Sonny" Berry, The Honorable

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Self. Hudspeth County Commissioner Pct 4

Dell City, TX

As a motorcycle rider who is a member of a motorcycle club and also serving as Hudspeth County Commissioner for Precinct 4 the current practice of profiling motorcycle riders by law enforcement should be prohibited. Just because I ride a motorcycle and wear the "patch" of a club does not warrant me being pulled over by law enforcement for no other reason other than to obtain information about me or my club or to use the information to enter me into the Texas Gang Database simply for being a member of a law-abiding motorcycle club. I fully support passage of HB1837 and encourage members of this Committee to pass HB1837.

Jeff Coyle, Asst. City Manager

City of San Antonio

San Antonio, TX

The City registered our opposition to the bill. Although we aren't opposed to the intent of the bill, it would allow a motorcyclist to bring a wrongful profiling claim against the City and recover damages and attorney's fees, proliferating litigation against the City.

Lora Dame

Texas Council of Clubs & Independents

Round Rock, TX

I support this bill presented by Mary Gonzales

Charles Dame

Texas Council of Clubs & Independents

Round Rock, TX

I support this bill

Valerie Barsness

Self Legal Secretary

Austin, TX

I am a registered motorcycle owner and operator in Texas and I implore you to pass this bill into law. Motorcycle profiling is unfair and we need to stop it now. I am a decorated military veteran, a state employee, and a member of the motorcycle community in Texas. My mode of transportation or my clothing should not be a valid reason to pull me over.

Ruth Fawbert

Self/Mom

Round Rock, TX

Profiling shouldn't be tolerated for anything, but because I choose to ride a motorcycle or Trike and be a part of a club that likes to ride said vehicles and/or possibly wear a vest representing that choice. I should not be profiled as something less than a law abiding citizen and be respected as such.

Michael Gillig

Self

Cedar Park, TX

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Dear Representatives Mary Gonzalez and Todd Hunter

As a non-affiliated motorcycle rider with 40+ years of riding history, I have been profiled a few times over the years. That said, I can appreciate the difficulty law enforcement faces on a daily basis, but stopping and questioning riders based on various types of riding attire with no other cause is troublesome. I believe HB #1837 would help stem motorcycle rider profiling.

I appreciate the bipartisan support on this issue and will look for passage of this bill.

Thank you

Michael H Gillig

Chris Ordner

Tcoci

Leander, TX

I am in support of this legislation

Katrena Kobane

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I support this bill

Shawn Pletcher

Self

Austin, TX

I am in support of bill HB 1837,  
Thank you for taking the time .

Lisa Wilson

self Dispatch supervisor

Rosanky, TX

I (Lisa Wilson), I am an active motorcycle rider as well as an active voter. profiling in any form is wrong and uncalled for many reasons, NOT all bikers are hostile just like not all judges are corrupt! there are many motorcycles that support and stand up for what is right for the PEOPLE OF AMERICA!

William Robinson

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please Support this Bill

Judy Robinson

Self

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Georgetown, TX

Please Support This Bill

Irene Underwood

Self

Killeen, TX

Please support this Bill

NOLA Ann Wilson

Self/ Biker - Hairstylist

Rosanky, TX

Profiling is wrong. And I will not only vote against ANYONE WHO WANTS IT TO PASS I will also campaign against them.

michael osullivan

Indian motorcycle riders group..

corpus christi, TX

representative Gonzalez thank you for helping all us riders we need to stop this rider profiling we are not all. gang members

we are true americans and texans tjat give more to charity then local governments.

have the groups are also law enforcement riders..

Jay Wood

Independent

Cedar Park, TX

I fully support this bill and the rights of motorcyclists. Thank you for protecting my rights.

John Venegas, Mr.

Texas Counsel of Clubs and Independent s

Corpus Christi, TX

We ask that Motorcyclist are not profiled.

Tonya Gonzales

Self - Communications Technician

Corpus Christi, TX

I am in favor of HB 1837. I am a woman and an independent rider, affiliated with no motorcycle club. On July 25, 2015 I was riding from Corpus Christi to a fund raiser in Victoria, Texas. On Highway 77 there were TX DPS cars lined up two per crossover. As I passed the crossover a DPS officer would pull out, follow me for a distance and then pull off. A second DPS officer did the same and then a third DPS officer performed the same action. I was never stopped but many who were going to the event that day were pulled over. On September 19, 2015 I went to a motorcycle rally in Bandera, Texas that occurs twice a year. As I was riding from Medina, Texas to Bandera, Texas on Highway 16, a distance of approximately 16 miles, I counted no less

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than 20 DPS officers parked at various points along the highway. As we came into Bandera they were parked six deep on the side of the road. Again I was never stopped. The rally was virtually shut down and the company that operates the rally lost a great deal of money because no one came because of the police activity. I have witnessed too many incidents of police profiling to enumerate. I am not anti-police. In July of 2018 I helped organize a community service event in cooperation with TXDOT, DPS, and our local police department to raise public awareness to a high incidence of motorcycle fatalities in the Tri-County area. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Richard Caballero

Council of Clubs and Independents Region 8 and self

Corpus Christi, TX

I would like to request that you support HB 1837. I have been riding and pulled over for speeding on May 23 2017 I was riding with the Military Motorcycle Club "LEATHERNECKS" the stop had two Texas Highway Patrol Officers and resulted in NO Ticket but the stop lasted at least 25 minutes. The stop was extended due to the questions being asked that I could not answer due to the lack of knowledge. I was asked about the BANDIDOS riding north and where are they going I couldn't answer the questions due to I was riding by myself with no knowledge of the other Clubs where about. I'm a 7th generation TEXAN, son, Brother, Father and now a Grand Father. I'm also a Veteran (USMC), retired DOD with 36 years, I have a college degree, and a CHL since 96. I also chair the COC & I Region 8 with at least 33 clubs and independents. Our goal is to coordinate benefits and provide safety and legislative issues to keep our riders aware of what is going on. I used to ride with a Club and now due to family reason can't. It was Nov.13 2020 that I was pulled over after leaving a funeral. Once again several questions were asked and once it was understood that I no longer was in a Club the Officers sent me on my way I was in my truck. The bottom line was I was attending a RED & GOLD funeral I should not expect to be pulled over because that's the way the our Police force thinks. I was not given a ticket that night but knew that if you supported a RED & GOLD event you should be thinking your going to get pulled over. This profiling due to the club or colors should not be acceptable. I will state that I take responsibility for my actions and so do most riders. We must take everyone as an individual. WE have no law that you are guilty by association. Thanks

Joe Morris

Rig Riders MC/COC&I Region 3

Humble, TX

Please support this bill.

Chere Laine

Council of Clubs & Independents, Texas Region 8

George West, TX

Please support the END of motorcycle rider profiling and the END of the unconstitutional adding of names to the Texas Gang Data Base without due cause, evidence of an injured party, or proof of an actual crime.