

## **The New Wisconsin Roadway Users Responsibility Act Takes Effect**

As of October 1st 2006 the Wisconsin Roadway Users Responsibility Act took effect.

Signed by the Governor in May, this new law has several key points that will greatly benefit all motorcyclists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

This new law will allow motorcyclists to proceed through a vehicle actuated red light after 45 seconds when the signal fails to recognize a motorcycle and it is safe to proceed.

Also included in this law will be stiffer penalties for all right-of-way violations resulting in bodily injury or death, including increased fines and driving license suspension.

Share the Road, a motorcycle awareness class will be required in all driver education classes as well as being a remedial class requirement for any person that violates the right-of-way of a motorcyclist and causes an accident resulting in injury or death.

Other provisions of this law include removing the requirement to obtain a motorcycle learners permit prior to gaining a motorcycle endorsement if you have graduated from a recognized Motorcycle Rider Education Program. It will still be necessary to pass the written test before being granted the endorsement.

While most motorcyclists will need to know the new red light law, we will hope to see a larger effect on our safety over the next several years as drivers learn they are responsible and will pay a high price for causing death and injury to others. Maybe some of drivers will learn how to hang up the cell phone and concentrate on their driving. This law will also increase the amount of education for drivers regarding motorcyclists.

These changes in the law were the result of efforts of many over several years. State Senator Dave Zien and State Representative Mark Honadel were the key lawmakers with input from several Chapter X and G members, the American Motorcyclists Association's Justice for all program, and ABATE of Wisconsin. It all started with one simple letter from one person to Representative Mark Honadel who wanted to listen to our concerns and got the ball rolling.