

Oppose SB 435 – Stop Smog Checks for California Motorcycles

On February 26, 2009, state Senator Fran Pavley (D–Santa Monica) introduced SB 435 that authorizes the inclusion of model year 2000 and newer motorcycles in California’s smog check program starting in 2012. This is the most infamous and wide-reaching assault on California motorcyclists since the Helmet Law in 1992.

No other state, or municipality in the country, save one county in Arizona has such a draconian requirement for checking the engine emissions from motorcycles. This bill, as introduced, contains *NO* details about the program, only the authorization for it to begin in 2012. Those details will be left to the regulators at the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Bureau of Auto Repair (BAR).

Motorcycle owners will undoubtedly have to replace any non-stock emissions parts that were installed to improve performance and fuel economy, such as carburetors, fuel injection, charcoal canisters, air cleaners, and non-catalytic convertors or convertor exhaust systems if catalysts came as original equipment when purchased new.

This program will probably work just as the Smog Check Program works for all other motor vehicles. To re-register your motorcycle after 2011, you will need to provide proof of passing a smog check, or you won’t be able to re-register it.

What Can Be Done to Stop SB 435? — *Write, Fax, Call & E-mail the Chairman and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee, Today, Telling Them to Vote NO on SB 435 Using the Contact Numbers and Talking Points Below! Calling and Faxing remain the most effective way of telling legislators what you want.*

Vote No on SB 435 **Because:**

- Motorcycles do not contribute enough pollution to warrant being included in a smog check program.

- Motorcycles constitute less than 3% of the total number of motor vehicles in California and travel less than 25%, on average, compared to cars and trucks.

- Motorcycles, because of their low mileage usage and much higher gas mileage than cars and trucks, represent only 1.5% of the total for all mobile source emissions.

- Motorcycle smog checks are an unnecessary intrusion into motorcycle riders’ lives.

- California motorcycle engine emission standards were lowered drastically in 2008 making California motorcycles already the cleanest in the nation.

- There is no evidence that motorcycles that have been modified for performance or gas economy reasons emit any more emissions than stock ones.

- The cost to implement and conduct a motorcycle smog check program will cost California more than the value of the emissions it’s estimated to save.

- A smog check program for motorcycles will discourage new motorcycle purchases and encourage owners, who use their motorcycles infrequently, to stop using them.

- Motorcycle smog checks were eliminated in one Arizona county after it was proven that the program did not reduce emissions enough to continue the program.

- If motorcycles have to be returned to stock condition, finding original parts for older bikes will be impossible because historically, not enough spare parts were made when they were built.

The simplest way to Address your letters to the Committee Members is like this:

Honorable _____,
State Senate, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Reach the Transportation Committee Chairman at:

Senate Transportation & Housing Committee
Chairman Alan Lowenthal
2032 Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 445-2209

Chair’s Office Telephone: (916) 651-4027 Chair’s e-mail: senator.lowenthal@sen.ca.gov

Call & Fax Your Letter to Each of the Other Senate Transportation & Housing Committee Members & Tell Them To Vote NO on SB 435:

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Fax Number</u>	<u>Capitol Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Senator Robert Huff (R–Glendora) (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	(916) 324-0922	(916) 651-4029	senator.huff@sen.ca.gov
Senator Roy Ashburn (R–Bakersfield)	(916) 322-3304	(916) 651-4018	senator.ashburn@sen.ca.gov
Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D–Walnut Creek)	(916) 445-2527	(916) 651-4007	senator.desaulnier@sen.ca.gov
Senator Tom Harman (R–Costa Mesa)	(916) 445-9263	(916) 651-4035	senator.harman@sen.ca.gov
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth (R–Temecula)	(916) 447-9008	(916) 651-4036	senator.hollingsworth@sen.ca.gov
Senator Christine Kehoe (D–San Diego)	(916) 327-2188	(916) 651-4039	senator.kehoe@sen.ca.gov
Senator Jenny Oropeza (D–Redondo Beach)	(916) 323-6056	(916) 651-4028	senator.oropeza@sen.ca.gov
Senator Fran Pavley (D–S. Monica) (<i>Author SB 435</i>)	(916) 324-4823	(916) 651-4023	senator.pavley@sen.ca.gov
Senator Joe Simitian (D–Palo Alto)	(916) 323-4529	(916) 651-4011	senator.simitian@sen.ca.gov
Senator Lois Wolk (D–Vacaville)	(916) 323-2304	(916) 651-4005	senator.wolk@sen.ca.gov