



ABATE Legislative

Monthly Report

Subcommittee Report S908



Subcommittee Report January 12, 2022

Senator Rex Rice: There are current in Myrtle Beach and that is why Senator Luke Rankin had introduced this legislation. This bill would amend Section 56-5-4445 to limit the height of the front fender being raised more than four inches from the back.

City of Myrtle Beach Law Enforcement: They went over the issues with low speed collision with these modifications since the bumper is designed to provide protection in these collisions. The bumpers being elevated so high, any collision will result with the motor and axle of the vehicle.

They provided a set of photos showing the view from inside a modified truck with a person in front, truck in front and a mustang in front. You could see there was a small amount of each object visible over the dash

They have had one fatal collision with a pedestrian. The vehicles headlights were over 54" and needless to say the pedestrian did not have a chance since the bumper was so high. A Senator had asked how many other fatal collisions whit these trucks and he stated that they have no idea since there is no way to track it on the TR-310.

SCDMV Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs Lauren Phillips: She suggested an amendment that would provide a three year period at which time any previous violation would no longer be seen. The current bill did not have any limit so each violation would be on your record indefinitely.

SCDPS Director of Executive Affairs Teckla Henderson: They provided testimony that with these modifications airbags could deploy and that headlights could be an issue. They also stated there is no way to track collisions with these types of trucks.

ABATE of South Carolina Legislative Coordinator Ralph Bell: I provide written testimony for each Senator and outlined the fact that we naturally drive defensively and always try to avoid being overtaken by vehicles like these. I also explained that headlights that are straight in our eyes are a big concern since we have no visors or anything else to block them. I pointed out the article that had the quote from a Spartanburg garage owner that would not perform these modifications. I suggested that if this bill is passed that any reputable garage will refuse to do this illegal modification. Of course individuals could do them in their own garage but that hopefully this would make this an issue of yesterday.

Sub Committee Chairman Senator Rex Rice: There was some discussion on an amendment as recommended by the SCDMV and also a 6 month warning period. Senator Sabb and Senator Senn had some other questions and once answered moved to have the bill voted on.

The Vote: A motion to move this bill forward and all senators voted in favor. This bill with amendments will be in full Transportation Committee on Wednesday January 19th and 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in attending we will be meeting at the IHOP that is located across from the statehouse on Assembly Street.

ABATE is a state motorcyclists rights organization dedicated to defending the rights of all motorcyclists. ABATE also encourages all motorcyclists to register to vote and become active in the political process. ABATE encourages motorcyclists to voluntarily obtain motorcycle rider training.