

□ *Editor's note: This is one of several upcoming stories that will focus on bills introduced in the 2013 Nebraska Legislature and how they affect Imperial area residents.*

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

LB 181, introduced in the Nebraska Legislature Jan. 14, would make it illegal to operate a motorcycle with a passenger under eight years of age.

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Bill Avery of Lincoln.

Greg Koellner of Imperial, who is a district representative for ABATE (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education), said his organization is confused by the bill.

"I'm wondering what magic happens at age eight that makes it a safe age," he said last week.

"Why doesn't it (LB 181) cover snowmobiles, go-carts and horses?" he asked.

Koellner said ABATE is wondering what prompted the bill. Such a bill is usually introduced following a tragedy.

"We haven't heard of any accidents. We are shocked by it. We weren't ready for it," he commented.

Koellner noted that LB 181 doesn't cover an eight-year old or younger riding his own motorcycle, and not as a passenger.

"It's not very well thought out," he stated.

Koellner said he and other ABATE members will be attending a Lobby Day at the Legislature Jan. 28, where they will find out more about LB 181.