



# Action Alert



Since 1971 — Fifty-Three Years of Service to California's Motorcycle & Motorsports Dealers

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CALIFORNIA MOTORCYCLE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

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## E-mail *today*, to Help Pass SB 708 Out of the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee. *Your Support is Critical!*

After waiting over a year, SB 708 will be heard on Tuesday, June 11, in the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee. SB 708 establishes a sticker program to identify non-emissions compliant OHVs for legal use at sanctioned OHV race events.

Five years ago, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) passed a landmark OHV engine emissions regulation that essentially outlawed the legal use of post-2021 off-highway motorcycles that did not meet CARB's extremely low engine emission standard from use on California public lands.

Although California motorcycle retailers could still sell these non-engine-certified (mainly 2-stroke) models for use on private property and on private race tracks an unintended consequence was that these "purely competition" units could not be legally entered into sanctioned off-road racing events, exactly what they supposedly were intended for.

*"The fourth time is the charm."* This is the fourth legislative attempt put forth by long time motorcycle rights and business supporter state Senator, Brian Jones (R-Escondido), to allow these competition units to be able to legally participate in sanctioned OHV events.

In 2020, Senator Jones introduced SB 1024, a more expansive bill than SB 708, although having passed both houses of the Legislature, ran out of time to be approved on the last day of that legislative session.

SB 227 was authored the next year and was unable to be passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 894 was introduced in 2022, made its way through the Legislature, virtually unopposed, but was vetoed by Governor Newsom because he was concerned that it would take too many years for the DMV to be reimbursed for their estimated costs to set up the program.

SB 708, introduced by Senator Jones in 2023, passed the house of its origin, the state Senate, last year, unopposed.

SB 708 will issue "sanctioned event permits" or likely stickers, on an annual basis, to off-road operators of post-2021 off-road motorcycles that are not eligible for Green Sticker or Red Sticker off highway vehicle

identification, issued by the DMV, because they are not CARB engine-emission compliant.

These units will then be eligible to compete in sanctioned OHV races and events.

The racing permit fee will cover the cost of the operating and administrative costs of the Parks and Recs Department and have no cost to the DMV.

Online purchase of these permits will begin on January 1, 2026

### Talking Points to be Emphasized

- California's historic off-road racing program won't continue to be healthy without the establishment of a registration sticker program to admit competition vehicles to sanctioned races.
- Competition model racing off-road motorcycle operators will purchase registration stickers that will admit their sanctioned bikes to OHV racing events.
- If SB 708 isn't passed, California will suffer significant monetary losses from lost sales taxes, registration fees, fuel taxes and event fees from cancelled legal races.
- If we don't have a legitimate racing program, I fear that riders will participate in unsanctioned races, resulting in the opposite of what the CARB regulations intended.
- California's OHV Program is 53 years old, this year, and legal motorcycle racing an important part of it. Please Vote for SB 708 to continue this wholesome outdoor activity, that I, as a dealer, have a big stake in.
- CARB adopted off-highway vehicle emissions regulations in 2019 that eliminated post-2021 CARB uncertified competition motorcycles from engaging in sanctioned off-road racing events. SB 708 will provide a legal way for these popular models to be able to compete.

### Here's where you come in.

We need you, as a motorcycle dealer business stakeholder, to write an e-mail advising the Chair of the next policy committee of your **Support for SB 708!**

We will provide you with the contact information below, so that you can send an e-mail to the Chair of the committee that will be hearing the bill, asking them to **Vote for SB 708**. That's all that you have to do — no letter, no phone calls, *just a simple e-mail*, using your own words or choose a talking point, or two, from the list to the left.

### Address your e-mail to:

Honorable Diane Papan, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee —

However, a simple, *"I'm a California motorcycle dealer and respectfully ask you to Vote for SB 708, which I support. It will allow me to legally sell my dwindling off-road motorcycle product line to qualified racers to better regulate this wholesome recreational activity."* will suffice.

The CMDA's lobbyists have offered to collect your e-mails and timely submit them by uploading them to the Assembly Parks, Water & Wildlife Committee through its dedicated portal: [info@lombardogroup.net](mailto:info@lombardogroup.net)

The passage of this bill is critically important to our members, this industry and the future of OHV racing, but your help is really needed. Your input, as a motorcycle retailer stakeholder, is critical for the passage of a bill as important as SB 708 is to California dealers!

**Write and e-mail, TODAY, because this bill will be voted in committee on Tuesday, June 11! ♦**