



Senate Bill 708 – OHV Sanctioned Event Permits

SUMMARY

SB 708 creates a new online sanctioned event permit program for model year 2022 and newer Competition motorcycles to replace the Red Sticker registration program that ended in 2021. SB 708 will provide a cost-effective, bureaucratically-streamlined, identification decal that is to be displayed on competition motorcycles when operated at sanctioned events on public lands.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) oversees registration of all off-highway vehicles (OHVs) through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), except Competition motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles. Standard OHVs are eligible for a “Green Sticker” registration, because they meet certain environmental requirements set by CARB. Green Sticker vehicles are allowed to operate on public lands open to motor vehicles all year. The Green Sticker registration program is in statute.

Competition OHVs, however, often do not meet the strict environmental standards set by CARB, because they are built to operate specifically for competitions. Up until 2021, Competition OHVs were eligible for a “Red Sticker” registration, which restricts these vehicles from being operated in specific areas during certain times of the year. Unlike the Green Sticker registration, the Red Sticker registration program was not in statute, and was instead a CARB regulation. Currently, there are over 200,000 Red Sticker OHVs in California with approximately 10,000 units sold each year. The Red Sticker has allowed competition OHVs to operate in California for the past two decades.

The registration fee for Green or Red Sticker OHVs is \$52 per vehicle, and is valid for a two-year period. These fees provide fiscal support to agencies and counties for OHV related land management, law enforcement, conservation, restoration, and youth safety programs. Additionally, OHV registration helps law enforcement track the ownership of the vehicles to ensure safe practices.

PROBLEM

CARB decided to end the Red Sticker program in 2021 with no registration program planned to replace it, which has caused chaos and confusion with land management agencies and law enforcement authorities. Model year 2022 and newer Competition OHVs do not have an identification decal or sticker that distinguishes them from 2021 model year and older Competition OHVs.

SOLUTION

SB 708 creates a new online sanctioned event permit program for model year 2022 and newer Competition motorcycles so that land agency staff and law enforcement will be able to easily identify them when operated at sanctioned events held on public lands. The identification decal will be displayed on competition motorcycles.

Permit fees from SB 708 will also restore monies historically slated for important conservation and law enforcement efforts that were lost with the termination of the Red Sticker program.

SB 708 will allow Competition riders to continue their sport in a safe, responsible, and fiscally-wise manner. It also allows land managers to have a way to distinguish types of vehicles.

SUPPORT

Coalition for Public Access (Sponsor)
American Motorcyclist Assoc
California Custom Trailers & Powersports
California Motorcycle Dealers Association
District 36 Motorcycle Sports Committee, Inc.
Motorcycle Industry Council
San Diego Off-Road Coalition
Sierra Motor Sports
Tuleyome
Roseville Motorsports
ABATE of California
California Wilderness Coalition

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