

New Florida Law Makes Vertical License Plate Holders Illegal; Custom Bikers Could Face Big Fines

Demon's Cycle is raising awareness of a new Florida law which makes vertical license plates illegal. With fines up to \$5000, for repeat offenders, the custom motorcycle company also questions if the law makers are more interested in money than safety.

April 10, 2009 (FPRC) -- Demon's Cycle Inc., a custom motorcycle company in Florida, is raising awareness of a new Florida state law banning vertical license plates. The law, which was passed in October 2008, applies not only to motorcycles being driven in the state but also to stopped and parked motorcycles meaning that many custom motorcycles are currently in violation of the law even when not used.

The new law states that "vehicle license plates shall be affixed and displayed in such a manner that the letters and numerals shall be read from left to right parallel to the ground." This means that vertical number plates which read left to right and top to bottom are now illegal.

First time offenders of the new law face fines of over \$1000 while for a second infraction the fine is more than double this at over \$2500 with the possibility of losing your motorcycle license for 1 year. The third violation costs \$5,000 and loss of motorcycle license endorsement for 10 years. For those who need to replace their license plate brackets to horizontal ones, Demon's Cycle offer a number of choices.

Tom Steinbacher, the owner of Demon's Cycle Inc. expressed his outrage saying, "I wonder who in Florida makes this kind of law and especially who regulates the amount of the fine? I can be driving with twice the posted speed limit endangering other people, even worse, I can be speeding in a truck right through a school zone putting children in danger. If I get caught, I will be fined from \$250 to maybe \$600. But if my motorcycle shows its license plate vertically I will be fined \$1000 or more even if the bike is parked! Are the lawmakers worried about safety issues here or just trying to make a quick buck of bikers?!"

Other things to note in the new law are that the license plates need to be mounted at least 12 inches from the ground and no higher than 60 inches. They must also be no more than 24 inches to the left or right of the centerline of the bike. Plates that swing are not acceptable and all the writing on the plate must be legible from 100 feet and free from defacement, mutilation, grease, and other obscuring matter (like mud).

"There are thousands of custom motorcycles in Florida and a vertical sidemount license plate bracket is on almost every one of them. It has been so popular with bikers for over a decade" said Art Rodos of Demon's Cycles Inc. "The new law will put them in awkward situation and make them a subject to enormous fines (way higher then fines for speeding and reckless driving) and not too many people are aware of the new law."

About Demon Cycles

Demon's Cycle is a custom motorcycle wholesale company with its headquarters in South Florida.

They specialize in sales of rolling chassis, custom chopper frames, front ends, headlights mirrors, handlebars and other custom parts for Harley Davidson motorcycles.

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