

Over the last few years I have heard many complaints about loud mufflers on motorcycles. The summer season is upon us and Waushara County residents are keeping their windows open well into the nights. Busy roads will see hundreds of motorcycles go past everyday. Weekend bike traffic climbs even higher with nice weather.

Most bike owners maintain legal exhaust systems and operate in a respectable manner everyday. With fuel costs sky rocketing, motorcycles will become more of a necessity than a luxury. Some bike owners will alter their exhausts against Wisconsin State Laws. These alterations generate noise above acceptable levels for everyone who lives on the roads they travel, or the businesses they frequent.

Starting immediately, the Village Police Departments in Coloma, Plainfield, Wild Rose and Redgranite as well as the Sheriff's Department will strictly enforce SS 347.39 Mufflers (1) & (2). "... No person shall modify the exhaust system of any such motor vehicle in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of such vehicle above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle, and such original muffler shall comply with all requirements of this section." Bond for violation of this statute may be as much as \$186.20.

Riding a motorcycle is a wonderful form of recreation, as well as a great way to conserve fuel. It is only a few that feel the excessive noise is necessary for their enjoyment. Unfortunately it is ruining it for all the motorcyclists that obey the law, and those that need to listen to the noise that live along Waushara County roads.

Kenosha County Sheriff David Beth was instrumental in bringing this problem to the attention of law enforcement officials state-wide. Many local law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin have agreed to make loud exhaust an enforcement priority. Law enforcement officers in Waushara County will be paying close attention to loud exhaust on all motor vehicles, not just motorcycles.

Sheriff David R. Peterson

347.39 Mufflers. (1) No person shall operate on a highway any motor vehicle subject to registration unless such motor vehicle is equipped with an adequate muffler in constant operation and properly maintained to prevent any excessive or unusual noise or annoying smoke. This subsection also applies to motor bicycles.

(2) No muffler or exhaust system on any vehicle mentioned in sub. (1) shall be equipped with a cutout, bypass or similar device nor shall there be installed in the exhaust system of any such vehicle any device to ignite exhaust gases so as to produce flame within or without the exhaust system. No person shall modify the exhaust system of any such motor vehicle in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of such vehicle above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle, and such original muffler shall comply with all the requirements of this section.

(3) In this section, "muffler" means a device consisting of a series of chambers of baffle plates or other mechanical design for receiving exhaust gases from an internal combustion engine and which is effective in reducing noise.

History: 1983 a. 243.

Cross Reference: See also ss. Trans 305.20 and 305.39, Wis. adm. code.