

## **Proposed Legislation – Repeal of the state helmet law for motorcycle riders and passengers.**

### Current Law:

- Missouri's current helmet law requires every person operating or riding as a passenger on any motorcycle or motor tricycle upon any highway of this state to wear protective headgear at all times the vehicle is in motion.
- The protective headgear shall meet reasonable standards and specifications established by the DOT. DOT-compliant helmets are identified by a sticker inside the helmet.
- The current fine for this offense is \$25.

### Additional Information as you may need it:

- 12 percent of 2017 Missouri traffic fatalities were a motorcycle driver or passenger. Preliminary 2018 data indicates 11 percent of Missouri traffic fatalities were a motorcycle driver or passenger.
- There were 115 motorcycle drivers/passengers killed and 616 seriously injured in 2017. Preliminary 2018 data indicates there were 107 motorcycle drivers/passengers killed and 535 seriously injured.
- 13 percent of the 115 motorcyclists killed in 2017 were unhelmeted, while another 23 percent wore a non-DOT compliant helmet. Preliminary 2018 data indicates 8 percent of the 107 motorcyclists killed in 2018 were unhelmeted, while another 20 percent wore a non-DOT compliant helmet.
- Too fast for conditions, speed exceeded limit, substance-impaired driving, and improper lane usage were the most common motorcycle driver contributing circumstances in 2015-2017 fatal crashes.
- 42 percent of the 2017 fatal motorcycle crashes were single vehicle crashes. Preliminary 2018 data indicates 47 percent of the fatal motorcycle crashes were single vehicle crashes.
- 78 percent of 2017 Missouri motorcycle crashes resulted in injury or death to the motorcyclist. Preliminary 2018 data indicates 81 percent of Missouri motorcycle crashes resulted in injury or death to the motorcyclist.
- Missouri could see a 38 percent increase in fatalities if the helmet law is repealed. (Community Preventive Services Task Force)
- In addition to the tragic loss of life and impact to families, crashes result in an annual economic loss in Missouri of nearly \$9.9 million per fatality. (U.S. DOT)

### NHTSA Information as you may need it:

- Helmets reduce the chance of a fatal injury by 42 percent and reduce the risk of sustaining a head injury by 69 percent. (Community Preventive Service Task Force)
- In 2016, there were 11.5 times as many unhelmeted fatalities (1,923) in states without a universal helmet law compared to states with a universal helmet law (166 deaths). These states were nearly equivalent with respect to total resident populations
- Annually, motorcycle crashes cost \$12.9 billion in economic impacts, and \$66 billion in societal harm as measured by comprehensive costs based on 2010 data. (saferoads.org)

- According to a 2012 GAO report, “laws requiring all motorcyclists to wear helmets are the only strategy proven to be effective in reducing motorcyclist fatalities”.
- Missouri is one of 19 states and the District of Columbia to require helmet use for all motorcyclists. Twenty-eight states have specific rider (partial) helmet laws, and 3 states have no helmet law (IL, IA, NH).