

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:

- 13 percent of 2016 Missouri traffic fatalities were a motorcycle driver or passenger. Preliminary 2017 data indicates 12 percent of Missouri traffic fatalities were a motorcycle driver or passenger.
- There were 123 motorcycle drivers/passengers killed and 573 seriously injured in 2016. Preliminary 2017 data indicates there were 114 motorcycle drivers/passengers killed and 588 seriously injured in 2016.
- 9 percent of the 123 motorcyclists killed in 2016 were unhelmeted, while another 24 percent wore a non-DOT compliant helmet. Preliminary 2017 data indicates 14 percent of the 114 motorcyclists killed in 2017 were unhelmeted, while another 23 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.
- 46 percent of the 2016 fatal motorcycle crashes were single vehicle crashes. Preliminary 2017 data indicates 42 percent of the fatal motorcycle crashes were single vehicle crashes.
- 83 percent of 2016 Missouri motorcycle crashes resulted in injury or death to the motorcyclist. Preliminary 2017 data indicates 83 percent of Missouri motorcycle crashes resulted in injury or death to the motorcyclist.
- Missouri could see a 42 percent increase in fatalities if the helmet law is repealed.
- In addition to the tragic loss of life and impact to families, crashes result in an annual economic loss in Missouri of nearly \$9.1 million per fatality. (U.S. DOT)

NHTSA Information as you may need it:

- Helmets reduce the chance of a fatal injury by 37 percent and reduce the risk of sustaining a head injury by 67 percent. (iihs)
- In 2013, there were 11 times as many unhelmeted fatalities (1,704) in states without a universal helmet law compared to states with a universal helmet law (150 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).