

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5185

As Reported by House Committee On: Transportation

Title: An act relating to temporarily suspending certain motorcycle rules when operating in parades or public demonstrations.

Brief Description: Temporarily suspending certain motorcycle rules when operating in parades or public demonstrations.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Delvin, Sheldon, Becker, Honeyford, Swecker, Stevens, Benton, Holmquist Newbry, Zarelli, Baumgartner, King, Schoesler, Hewitt, Ericksen and Roach).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 3/8/11, 3/22/11 [DP].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Suspends temporarily certain provisions related to motorcycle equipment standards and helmet use with respect to the operation of motorcycles on closed roads during a parade or public demonstration that has been permitted by a local jurisdiction.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 29 members: Representatives Clibborn, Chair; Billig, Vice Chair; Liias, Vice Chair; Armstrong, Ranking Minority Member; Hargrove, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Angel, Asay, Eddy, Finn, Fitzgibbon, Jinkins, Johnson, Klippert, Kristiansen, Ladenburg, McCune, Moeller, Morris, Moscoso, Overstreet, Reykdal, Rivers, Rodne, Rolfes, Ryu, Shea, Takko, Upthegrove and Zeiger.

Staff: Wendy Malkin (786-7114).

Background:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Chief of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) may temporarily suspend the following provisions with respect to the operation of motorcycles in connection with a parade or public demonstration:

- With certain exceptions, it is unlawful for a person to operate a motorcycle, moped, or motor-driven cycle that does not meet certain equipment standards for mirrors and windshields. However, certain older and antique motorcycles are exempt from the mirror requirements.
- Motorcycle riders must meet certain requirements in terms of riding position in relation to permanent seats and foot pegs, and operators are prohibited from carrying passengers unless there is proper seating for the passenger.
- Motorcycles must meet requirements for handlebar height.
- With certain exceptions, it is unlawful for a person to operate a motorcycle, moped, or motor-driven cycle unless he or she is wearing a helmet.
- It is unlawful to transport a child under the age of 5 on a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle.

Summary of Bill:

Certain provisions related to motorcycle equipment standards and helmet use are temporarily suspended with respect to the operation of motorcycles on closed roads during a parade or public demonstration that has been permitted by a local jurisdiction.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Please pass this bill. Nobody has been opposed to the bill throughout this process. The speeds are low in parades, so there is little risk in not wearing helmets.

(Information only) It is not a good idea to ride without a helmet under any circumstances, but when the road is closed for a parade, the WSP cannot enforce the rules of the road. The local jurisdiction has discretion when the road is closed for a parade.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Senator Delvin, prime sponsor; and Larry Walker, Washington Road Riders' Association.

(Information only) Jason Berry, Washington State Patrol.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.