
Transportation Committee

HB 2495

Brief Description: Modifying references to manufacturing standards for motorcycle helmets.

Sponsors: Representatives Shea, Blake, Van De Wege, Short, DeBolt, Fagan, Condotta, Christian, Overstreet, Taylor and Haigh.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes a reference that a motorcycle helmet must meet certain federal standards.

Hearing Date: 1/29/14

Staff: Andrew Russell (786-7143).

Background:

Washington law requires a person riding a motorcycle or moped on a state highway, county road, or city street to wear a motorcycle helmet, except where the vehicle has a windshield, seat belts, and a partially enclosed seating area. For the purposes of this requirement, a motorcycle helmet is defined as a protective covering for the head with a neck or chin strap and must include a manufacturer's certification that it complies with certain federal safety standards. Additionally, it is unlawful for a person to sell or offer for sale a motorcycle helmet that does not meet these standards.

Federal law prohibits any person from manufacturing, importing, or selling any motorcycle helmet that does not comply with certain safety standards. The United States Department of Transportation has adopted rules to implement this requirement and mandates that manufacturers of motorcycle helmets certify that helmets meet the applicable safety standards.

Summary of Bill:

The definition of a motorcycle helmet is amended to remove a requirement that helmets include a manufacturer's certification that it complies with federal standards.

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.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 22, 2014.

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