
SENATE BILL 5198

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Angel, Hatfield, and Hargrove

Read first time 01/15/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of motorcycle helmets; and amending
2 RCW 46.37.530.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.530 and 2009 c 275 s 5 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) It is unlawful:

7 (a) For any person to operate a motorcycle, moped, or motor-
8 driven cycle not equipped with mirrors on the left and right sides
9 which shall be so located as to give the driver a complete view of
10 the highway for a distance of at least two hundred feet to the rear
11 of the motorcycle, moped, or motor-driven cycle: PROVIDED, That
12 mirrors shall not be required on any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle
13 over twenty-five years old originally manufactured without mirrors
14 and which has been restored to its original condition and which is
15 being ridden to or from or otherwise in conjunction with an antique
16 or classic motorcycle contest, show, or other such assemblage:
17 PROVIDED FURTHER, That no mirror is required on any motorcycle
18 manufactured prior to January 1, 1931;

19 (b) For any person to operate a motorcycle, moped, or motor-
20 driven cycle which does not have a windshield unless wearing glasses,

1 goggles, or a face shield of a type conforming to rules adopted by
2 the state patrol;

3 (c) For any person under the age of eighteen to operate or ride
4 upon a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or moped on a state highway,
5 county road, or city street unless wearing upon his or her head a
6 motorcycle helmet except when the vehicle is an antique motor-driven
7 cycle or when the vehicle is equipped with all of the following:

8 (i) Steering wheel;

9 (ii) Seat belts that conform to standards prescribed under 49
10 C.F.R. Part 571; and

11 (iii) Partially or completely enclosed seating area for the
12 driver and passenger that is certified by the manufacturer as meeting
13 the standards prescribed under 49 C.F.R. Sec. 571.216.

14 The motorcycle helmet neck or chin strap must be fastened
15 securely while the motorcycle, moped, or motor-driven cycle is in
16 motion. Persons operating electric-assisted bicycles and motorized
17 foot scooters shall comply with all laws and regulations related to
18 the use of bicycle helmets;

19 (d) For any person to transport a child under the age of five on
20 a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle;

21 (e) For any person to sell or offer for sale a motorcycle helmet
22 that does not meet the requirements established by this section.

23 (2) The state patrol may adopt and amend rules concerning
24 standards for glasses, goggles, and face shields.

25 (3) For purposes of this section, "motorcycle helmet" means a
26 protective covering for the head consisting of a hard outer shell,
27 padding adjacent to and inside the outer shell, and a neck or chin
28 strap type retention system, with the manufacturer's certification
29 applied in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Sec. 571.218 indicating that the
30 motorcycle helmet meets standards established by the United States
31 department of transportation.

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