

HCS HB 1655 -- MOTORCYCLE HELMETS

SPONSOR: Burlison

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 4.

Currently, every person operating or riding as a passenger on any motorcycle or motortricycle upon any state highway must wear protective headgear when the vehicle is in motion. This bill specifies that this provision will only apply to a person younger than 21 years of age.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will attract more out of state riders to Missouri and allow a motorcycle or motortricycle operator to choose the safety method that he or she deems appropriate.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Burlison and Terry Cook, Freedom of Road Riders.

OPPONENTS: Those opposed to the bill say that helmets reduce the risk of head injury and they would like to maintain the current law.

Testifying against the bill were Property Casualty Insurers Association of America; Missouri Hospital Association; Missouri State Medical Association; Edward Sheperd; Maureen Cunningham, Brain Injury Association of Missouri; and Leanna Depue, Missouri Department of Transportation.