

HB 1080 -- FAILURE TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

SPONSOR: Pratt

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles by a vote of 19 to 0 with 1 present.

This bill, which will be known as Clutch's Law, imposes an additional fine and driver's license suspension on any person failing to yield the right-of-way when the violation results in physical injury, serious physical injury, or the death of a person. The additional fines collected will be credited to the Motorcycle Safety Trust Fund.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$1,803,907 to \$4,349,657 in FY 2005, \$2,219,702 to \$5,274,602 in FY 2006, and \$2,217,094 to \$5,271,994 in FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that right-of-way laws do not take into account the considerable vulnerability of motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Consequently, the penalty for a right-of-way violator who damages a car is generally the same as for a violation which causes physical injury or death.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pratt; American Motorcyclist Association; Freedom of Road Riders; and Gordon Becton.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst