

HB 1109 -- MOTORCYCLE HELMETS

SPONSOR: Crawford

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles by a vote of 13 to 7.

This bill requires only persons under 21 years of age to wear protective headgear when operating or riding as a passenger on any motorcycle or motortricycle. Currently, all motorcyclists are required to wear protective headgear.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this is strictly an issue of freedom and the right of adults to make their own choice.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ward; American Motorcycle Association; and Freedom of Road Riders.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that Missouri's motorcycle helmet law was good public policy when it was enacted 37 years ago, and it is still good public policy. The current helmet laws do work, and helmet usage is the single most important factor contributing to the survival of a person involved in a motorcycle crash.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program; Missouri Safety Council; Missouri Advocates for Traffic Safety; Division of Highway Safety; Missouri Medical Association; Missouri College of Emergency Physicians; and Barb Sturner.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst