

2 SB 6030 - S COMM AND

3 By Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature recognizes that
8 bicycling is popular for all ages. Almost all families now have
9 bicycles. Bicycling is increasing in our state. What used to be
10 simply a children's activity is now a common form of transportation and
11 recreation for children, adults, and families. Increased bicycling has
12 many benefits: It is healthy, nonpolluting, energy-efficient, and does
13 not cause wear to the road system. Bicycling is an enjoyable activity
14 that people with a wide range of physical abilities can share. The
15 nature of the activity creates conditions whereby a rider or passenger
16 may fall or collide with the road surface or other objects and possibly
17 sustain serious or fatal head injury. Therefore, it is beneficial for
18 all bicyclists or passengers on bicycles within the state of Washington
19 to wear protective helmets while riding.

20 In order to provide an effective means of implementing a
21 requirement for all bicyclists and their passengers to wear helmets,
22 the legislature recognizes that programs of helmet awareness designed
23 to promote use of helmets by all ages, undertaken by public and private
24 agencies with existing resources, and with notification of the
25 requirement must precede the date of total enforcement. Therefore,
26 section 2 of this act shall take effect as provided."

1 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) Beginning July 1, 1993, it is unlawful:

4 (a) For a person to operate or ride upon a bicycle not powered by
5 motor on a state highway, county road, city street, public trail or
6 pathway, or a public sidewalk adjacent to the foregoing unless wearing
7 a protective helmet of a type certified to meet the requirements of
8 standard Z-90.4 of the American National Standards Institute or such
9 subsequent nationally recognized standard for bicycle helmet
10 performance as the state patrol may adopt by rule. The helmet must be
11 equipped with either a neck or chin strap that shall be fastened
12 securely while the cycle is in motion;

13 (b) For a person to transport a person upon a bicycle or any other
14 cycle not powered by motor on a state highway, county road, city
15 street, public trail or pathway, or a public sidewalk adjacent to the
16 foregoing unless the person transported is wearing a helmet that meets
17 the requirements in (a) of this subsection;

18 (c) For the guardian of a person under the age of eighteen years to
19 knowingly allow, and fail to take reasonable steps to prevent, that
20 person from operating or riding upon a bicycle or any other cycle not
21 powered by motor on a state highway, county road, city street, public
22 trail or pathway, or a public sidewalk adjacent to the foregoing unless
23 that person is wearing a helmet that meets the requirements in (a) of
24 this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection, "guardian" means
25 a parent, legal guardian, temporary guardian including a babysitter, or
26 any other person who maintains responsibility, whether voluntary or
27 otherwise, for the safety and welfare of a person under the age of
28 eighteen years;

29 (d) For a person to sell or offer for sale a bicycle helmet that
30 does not meet the requirements established by (a) of this subsection;

1 (e) For a person to rent a bicycle or cycle not powered by motor
2 for use by a person unless the person possesses a helmet that meets the
3 requirements of (a) of this subsection, and the one renting is
4 reasonably satisfied that the person will operate or ride upon the
5 cycle while wearing such a helmet in the manner described in (a) of
6 this subsection.

7 (2) Failure to comply with the requirements of this section does
8 not constitute negligence. Neither failure to wear a bicycle helmet
9 nor the permission of such failure to occur is admissible as evidence
10 of negligence in any civil action.

11 (3) The state patrol shall adopt rules to implement this section."

12 "Sec. 3. RCW 46.61.750 and 1982 c 55 s 6 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) It is a traffic infraction for any person to do any act
15 forbidden or fail to perform any act required in RCW 46.61.750 through
16 46.61.780 or section 2 of this act.

17 (2) During the period from July 1, 1993, to January 1, 1994, a
18 person violating section 2 of this act shall be issued a written
19 warning of the violation. After January 1, 1994, a violator may be
20 issued a regular notice of traffic infraction.

21 (3) These regulations applicable to bicycles apply whenever a
22 bicycle is operated upon any highway or upon any bicycle path, subject
23 to those exceptions stated herein."

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4 In line 2 of the title, after "helmets;" strike the remainder of
5 the title and insert "amending RCW 46.61.750; adding a new section to
6 chapter 46.61 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties."