

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 1 - 1

Yeas: Buckley, Gilman, Read, Tomei, Beyer

Nays: Smith G.

Exc.: Butler

Prepared By: Judith Callens, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires operators and passengers of Class I and Class III all-terrain vehicles (ATV) to wear motorcycle helmets with fastened chin straps. Exempts employee of a utility that provides electrical, water, gas or telecommunications service, in the performance of the employee's official duties, from wearing a motorcycle helmet with a fastened chin strap. Exempts ATV operator from helmet requirements while vehicle is being loaded or unloaded from a truck or trailer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Safety statistics with use of helmets
- Occupations in which communication needs preclude helmet use at all times
- Practical considerations while loading and unloading ATVs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Exempts employee of a utility that provides electrical, water, gas or telecommunications service, in the performance of the employee's official duties, from wearing a motorcycle helmet with a fastened chin strap. Exempts ATV operator from helmet requirements while vehicle is being loaded or unloaded from a truck or trailer.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department sells permits to ride all terrain vehicles (ATVs) on public lands. Revenues fund ATV projects recommended by the ATV Account Allocation Advisory Committee, such as safety training and improvements to riding areas. Permit sales have nearly doubled since 2000.

A recent Consumer Products Safety Commission study reported, "helmets could have saved the lives of nearly 25% of people who died from head injuries in ATV-related accidents". Under current law, only ATV riders under the age of 18 are required to wear a helmet. HB 2062A requires all operators and passengers of Class I and Class III all-terrain vehicles to wear helmets with fastened chin straps with exceptions.