



## **HB 2671: Harmonizing Oregon's Helmet Laws**

Last summer, Portland citizens had the opportunity to test a new form of transportation in the city – electric scooters. The City of Portland's shared, dockless scooter pilot proved to be a rousing success: in less than four months, Portlanders took over 700,000 trips on scooters and traveled over 800,000 miles.

Following the pilot, the City of Portland conducted a comprehensive safety study and concluded not only that e-scooters were as safe as any other mode of transportation, but that widespread adoption of scooters could in fact “contribute to a **reduction** in serious injuries and fatalities.” In less than four months, scooters took over 230,000 car trips off the streets of Portland, making our roads safer for all.

With another pilot program soon to be underway in Portland, other cities in the state are now also considering bringing this technology to their communities. However, Oregonians have expressed some confusion and frustration about the discrepancies between scooter helmet laws and bicycle helmet laws.

**The problem we are working to solve** is that the current state law regarding scooter helmet requirements was written years before the new scooters existed and does not conform to the technology of today. Modern electric scooters, which are limited to 15mph, are similar to bicycles and should be subject to the same helmet rules.

**HB 2671 harmonizes scooter helmet laws with bicycle helmet laws by requiring motor-assisted scooter riders under 16 years old to wear helmets.**

**Oregonians should not be punished for choosing an alternative form of transportation that is affordable, equitable, emissions-free, and takes cars off the road.** The average ride for these electric scooters is only 1.2 miles and often replaces single-occupancy vehicles for short trips and the first and last mile between home and public transit. Oregon does not require adult bicycle riders to wear helmets because it suppresses ridership and encourages car use; the same is true for scooters.

**Please support HB 2671 and help keep Oregon moving!**