

**House File 267 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 267

BY MASCHER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the use of safety helmets by operators of,  
2 and passengers on, motorcycles and motorized bicycles, and  
3 making a penalty applicable.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.275, subsection 2, Code 2015, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c. Helmets.*

4 (1) A person shall not operate a motorcycle or motorized  
5 bicycle on a highway of this state if the operator or any  
6 passenger is not wearing a safety helmet. A person shall  
7 not ride as a passenger on a motorcycle or motorized bicycle  
8 being operated on a highway of this state if the operator, the  
9 person, or any other passenger is not wearing a safety helmet.

10 (2) For purposes of this paragraph "c", "wearing a safety  
11 helmet" means having a safety helmet that complies with the  
12 standards and specifications established in 49 C.F.R. §571.218  
13 on the person's head that is fastened with the helmet straps  
14 and that is of a size that fits the person's head securely  
15 without excessive lateral or vertical movement. The department  
16 shall adopt rules establishing guidelines for approved safety  
17 helmets and shall maintain and publish a list of approved  
18 safety helmets. The list need not be inclusive.

19 EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill requires the operator and passenger on a  
23 motorcycle or motorized bicycle to each wear a safety helmet  
24 when the vehicle is operated on a highway. The bill prohibits  
25 a person from operating a motorcycle or motorized bicycle on  
26 a highway if the operator or any passenger is not wearing a  
27 safety helmet. The bill also prohibits a person from being a  
28 passenger on a motorcycle or motorized bicycle if the operator  
29 is not wearing a safety helmet.

30 The safety helmet must be in compliance with federal  
31 regulations and must fit the person's head securely and be  
32 fastened with helmet straps. The bill directs the department  
33 of transportation to establish guidelines for motorcycle safety  
34 helmets and to maintain and publish a list of approved helmets.

35 Pursuant to current law, a violation of motorcycle or

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1 motorized bicycle provisions is a simple misdemeanor punishable  
2 by a scheduled fine of \$35.