

SENATE BILL 2529

By Barnes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,  
relative to motorcycle safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The general assembly finds the safety of motorcycle passengers to be a concern and the safety of young motorcycle riders and passengers to be of particular interest. Although the department of safety and homeland security offers a motorcycle rider education program, such program is not mandatory.

(b) Many young persons under the age of eighteen (18) overestimate their driving skills and reactions and underestimate the challenges and dangers of motorcycles, including the attitude and behavior of drivers of cars, trucks, and tractor trailers toward motorcycles. The department shall review current safety standards applicable to motorcycles, compile statistics relative to motorcycle crashes, injuries and deaths in this state, identify patterns and trends of motorcycle crashes, the impact of motorcycle crashes, and other relevant information. The department shall pay particular attention to statistics pertaining to motorcycle riders and passengers who are eighteen (18) years and younger.

(c) The department shall coordinate with motorcycle organizations to develop recommendations to increase the safety of motorcycle passengers. The department shall solicit assistance from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administration (SMSA), among other motorcycle organizations, for assistance in researching, evaluating, and proposing solutions to improve motorcycle passenger safety.

(d) The department shall report its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to enhance motorcycle passenger safety to the senate transportation and safety committee and the house of representatives transportation committee by February 1, 2013.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.