

RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE MOTORCYCLIST TO WEAR HELMETS IN CALIFORNIA

Whereas, In 1984 alone the California Highway Patrol statistics show that 27,344 motorcyclists were injured and of these 833 were killed and 3,766 had severe injuries; and

Whereas, The average hospital bill of an injured motorcyclist is conservatively estimated at more than \$17,000 per individual, and "indirect costs" such as lost wages and physical rehabilitation usually are double the direct costs; and

Whereas, California taxpayers are paying more than 80 percent of the costs incurred by injured motorcyclists;

Whereas, Motorcyclist injuries cost the taxpayers more than \$64 million a year for hospital bills alone, based on the number of injuries in 1984; and

Whereas, In California, motorcyclists account for only three percent of all passenger-carrying vehicles but are involved in 12 percent of crashes causing injury; and

Whereas, Per mile, a motorcyclist is more than 10 times more likely to die in a crash than an automobile occupant; and

Whereas, Unhelmeted riders have more than 2.5 times as many critical or fatal head injuries as riders who wear helmets; and

Whereas, We are concerned about the enormous financial cost to taxpayers and the immeasurable emotional cost to victims in loss of human lives and suffering caused by motorcycle crashes; and

Whereas, A mandatory helmet law in California would reduce motorcycle rider deaths and save the taxpayer millions of dollars annually;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Health Commission do hereby join the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor in their efforts in asking that the California legislature pass AB 36 to modify the existing state vehicle code to require all California motorcyclist to wear approved safety helmets.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, March 17, 1987.

Secretary to the Health Commission