

---

---

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6161**

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF HELMETS BY MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS AND PASSENGERS UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill increases, from age 18 to age 21, the age under which a person must wear a helmet while operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, helmets must meet the minimum specifications established by federal regulations. Failure to wear a helmet is an infraction punishable by a fine of at least \$90.

By law, autocycles and electric bicycles are not considered motorcycles or motor-driven cycles for purposes of the helmet requirements. "Motor-driven cycle" means a motorcycle, motor scooter, or bicycle with attached motor, with a seat at least 26 inches high, and a motor displacing fewer than 50 cubic centimeters (CGS § 14-1(57)).

The bill also makes technical changes, including eliminating an obsolete reference to Department of Motor Vehicles regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 6 (03/20/2019)