LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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(Bicycle helmets--under 14)

NJSA:

39:4-10-.1

LAWS OF:

1991

CHAPTER: 465

BILL NO:

A3655

SPONSOR(S)

Cimino

DATE INTRODUCED:

June 11, 1990

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY:

Consumer Affairs

SENATE:

Law, Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:

No

Senate committee substitute

enacted

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY:

May 9, 1991

SENATE:

January 9, 1992

DATE OF APPROVAL:

January 18, 1992

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT:

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:

Yes

SENATE:

Yes

FISCAL NOTE:

No

VETO MESSAGE:

No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING:

No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

KBG:pp

P.L.1991, CHAPTER 465, approved January 18, 1992 Senate Committee Substitute for 1991 Assembly No. 3655 CORRECTED COPY

AN ACT concerning bicycle helmets and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

37 -

1. a. A person under 14 years of age shall not operate, or ride upon a bicycle as a passenger, unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets the standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard) or the Snell Memorial Foundation's 1984 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling. This requirement shall apply to a person who rides upon a bicycle while in a restraining seat which is attached to the bicycle or in a trailer towed by the bicycle.

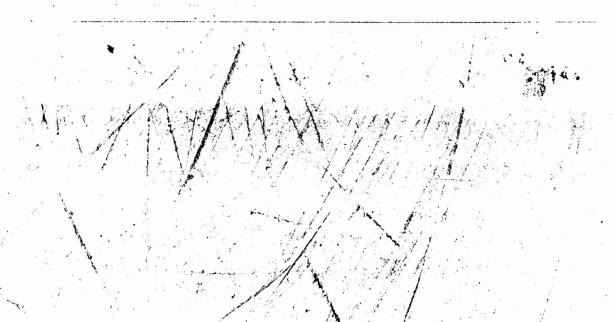
As used in this act, "bicycle" means a vehicle with two wheels propelled solely by human power and having pedals, handle bars and a saddle-like seat. The term shall include a bicycle for two or more persons having seats and corresponding sets of pedals arranged in tandem.

b. The director shall publish a list of bicycle helmets which meet the standards described in subsection a. of this section and shall provide for their distribution in as many locations frequented by the public as the director deems appropriate and practicable.

c. The requirement in subsection a. of this section shall apply at all times while a bicycle is being operated on any property open to the public or used by the public for pedestrian and vehicular purposes; however, a municipality may by ordinance exempt from this requirement a person operating or riding on a bicycle as a passenger when the bicycle is operated:

(1) on a road or highway closed to motor vehicle traffic and limited to pedestrian or bicycle use at all times or only during specified periods of time during which bicycles may be operated;

(2) exclusively on a trail, route, course, boardwalk, path or other area which is set aside for the use of bicycles or for the use of pedestrians and bicycle operation is not otherwise prohibited. However, an exemption may not be granted under this paragraph for any portion of a trail, route, course, boardwalk, path or other area which is immediately adjacent to a road or highway used by



motor vehicle traffic and which does not contain a barrier of sufficient height and rigidity to prevent the inadvertent or deliberate entry of a bicycle operator onto the road or highway.

- d. An ordinance enacted pursuant to subsection c. of this section shall specify those roads, highways, trails, routes, courses, boardwalks, paths or areas within the municipality where helmets are not required during the operation of a bicycle.
- e. When a bicycle is being operated in an area where bicycle helmets are not required, the operator or a passenger, except a passenger in a restraining seat or trailer, shall dismount from the bicycle and walk whenever it is necessary to enter a crosswalk or to cross a road or highway upon which motor vehicle-traffic-is permitted.
- 2. a. A person who violates a requirement of this act shall be warned of the violation by the enforcing official. The parent or legal guardian of that person also may be fined a maximum of \$25 for the person's first offense and a maximum of \$100 for a subsequent offense if it can be shown that the parent or guardian failed to exercise reasonable supervision or control over the person's conduct. Penalties provided in this section for a failure to wear a helmet may be waived if an offender or his parent or legal guardian presents suitable proof that an approved helmet was owned at the time of the violation or has been purchased since the violation occurred.
- b. All money collected as fines under subsection a, of this section shall be deposited in a nonlapsing revolving fund to be known as the "Bicycle Safety Fund." Interest earned on money deposited in the fund shall accrue to the fund. Money in the fund shall be utilized by the director to provide educational programs devoted to bicycle safety. If the director determines that sufficient money is available in the fund, he also may use, in a manner prescribed by rule and regulation, the money to assist low income families in purchasing approved bicycle helmets. For the purposes of this subsection, "low income family" means a family which qualifies for low income housing under the standards promulgated by the Council on Affordable Housing pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-302 et seq.).
- 3. a. A person regularly engaged in the business of selling bicycles shall provide a purchaser of a bicycle with a written explanation, either on the receipt of sale or on a separate form, of the provisions of subsections a., c. and e. of section 1 of this act and the penalties under section 2 of this act for a violation and shall obtain the purchaser's signature indicating receipt of the information.
- b. A person regularly engaged in the business of renting bicycles shall require each person seeking to rent a bicycle to provide his signature either on the rental form or on a separate form indicating (1) receipt of a written explanation of the

provisions of subsections a., c. and e. of section 1 of this act and the penalties under section 2 of this act for a violation and (2) whether a person under the age of 14 years will operate the bicycle in an area where the use of a holmet is required. A helmet shall be provided to a person under 14 years of age who will operate the bicycle in such an area if the person does not already have a helmet in his possession. A fee may be charged for the helmet rental.

- c. A person regularly engaged in the business of selling or renting bicycles who complies with the applicable requirements of subsections a, and b, of this section shall not be liable in a civil action for damages for any physical injury sustained by a bicycle operator or passenger who is under the age of 14 years as a result of the operator's or passenger's failure to wear a helmet or to wear a properly fitted or fastened helmet in violation of the requirements of this act.
- .4. The director, in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations which may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.
- 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month following enactment.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Requires bicycle operators and passengers under 14 to wear helmets; dedicates fines for safety education.

[CORRECTED COPY]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3655

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED DECEMBER 5, 1991

Sponsored by Assemblymen CIMINO and KELLY

AN ACT concerning bicycle helmets and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3.5

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. a. A person under 14 years of age shall not operate, or ride upon a bicycle as a passenger, unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets the standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard) or the Snell Memorial Foundation's 1984 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling. This requirement shall apply to a person who rides upon a bicycle while in a restraining seat which is attached to the bicycle or in a trailer towed by the bicycle.

As used in this act, "bicycle" means a vehicle with two wheels propelled solely by human power and having pedals, handle bars and a saddle-like seat. The term shall include a bicycle for two or more persons having seats and corresponding sets of pedals arranged in tandem.

- b. The director shall publish a list of bicycle helmets which meet the standards described in subsection a. of this section and shall provide for their distribution in as many locations frequented by the public as the director deems appropriate and practicable.
- c. The requirement in subsection a. of this section shall apply at all times while a bicycle is being operated on any property open to the public or used by the public for pedestrian and vehicular purposes; however, a municipality may by ordinance exempt from this requirement a person operating or riding on a bicycle as a passenger when the bicycle is operated:
- (1) on a road or highway closed to motor vehicle traffic and limited to pedestrian or bicycle use at all times or only during specified periods of time during which bicycles may be operated; or
- (2) exclusively on a trail, route, course, boardwalk, path or other area which is set aside for the use of bicycles or for the use of pedestrians and bicycle operation is not otherwise prohibited. However, an exemption may not be granted under this paragraph for any portion of a trail, route, course, boardwalk, path or other area which is immediately adjacent to a road or highway used by

motor vehicle traffic and which does not contain a barrier of sufficient height and rigidity to prevent the inadvertent or deliberate entry of a bicycle operator onto the road or highway.

- d. An ordinance enacted pursuant to subsection c. of this section shall specify those roads, highways, trails, routes, courses, boardwalks, paths or areas within the municipality where helmets are not required during the operation of a bicycle.
- e. When a bicycle is being operated in an area where bicycle helmets are not required, the operator or a passenger, except a passenger in a restraining seat or trailer, shall dismount from the bicycle and walk whenever it is necessary to enter a crosswalk or to cross a road or highway upon which motor vehicle traffic is permitted.
- 2. a. A person who violates a requirement of this act shall be warned of the violation by the enforcing official. The parent or legal guardian of that person also may be fined a maximum of \$25 for the person's first offense and a maximum of \$100 for a subsequent offense if it can be shown that the parent or guardian failed to exercise reasonable supervision or control over the person's conduct. Penalties provided in this section for a failure to wear a helmet may be waived if an offender or his parent or legal guardian presents suitable proof that an approved helmet was owned at the time of the violation or has been purchased since the violation occurred.
- b. All money collected as fines under subsection a. of this section shall be deposited in a nonlapsing revolving fund to be known as the "Bicycle Safety Fund." Interest earned on money deposited in the fund shall accrue to the fund. Money in the fund shall be utilized by the director to provide educational programs devoted to bicycle safety. If the director determines that sufficient money is available in the fund, he also may use, in a manner prescribed by rule and regulation, the money to assist low income families in purchasing approved bicycle helmets. For the purposes of this subsection, "low income family" means a family which qualifies for low income housing under the standards promulgated by the Council on Affordable Housing pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-302 et seq.).
- 3. a. A person regularly engaged in the business of selling bicycles shall provide a purchaser of a bicycle with a written explanation, either on the receipt of sale or on a separate form, of the provisions of subsections a., c. and e. of section 1 of this act and the penalties under section 2 of this act for a violation and shall obtain the purchaser's signature indicating receipt of the information.
- b. A person regularly engaged in the business of renting bicycles shall require each person seeking to rent a bicycle to provide his signature either on the rental form or on a separate form indicating (1) receipt of a written explanation of the

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provisions of subsections a., c. and e. of section 1 of this act and the penalties under section 2 of this act for a violation and (2) whether a person under the age of 14 years will operate the bicycle in an area where the use of a helmet is required. A helmet shall be provided to a person under 14 years of age who will operate the bicycle in such an area if the person does not already have a helmet in his possession. A fee may be charged for the helmet rental.

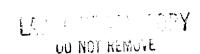
- c. A person regularly engaged in the business of selling or renting bicycles who complies with the applicable requirements of subsections a. and b. of this section shall not be liable in a civil action for damages for any physical injury sustained by a bicycle operator or passenger who is under the age of 14 years as a result of the operator's or passenger's failure to wear a helmet or to wear a properly fitted or fastened helmet in violation of the requirements of this act.
- 4. The director, in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations which may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.
- 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month following enactment.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Requires bicycle operators and passengers under 14 to wear helmets; dedicates fines for safety education.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3655

STATE OF NEW JERSEY



INTRODUCED JUNE 11, 1990

By Assemblyman CIMINO, Assemblywoman COOPER and Assemblyman Mecca

AN ACT concerning bicycle safety and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. a. A person shall not operate a bicycle unless that person is wearing a protective helmet of a type approved by the director. The helmet shall be equipped with a neck or chin strap and be reflectorized on both sides.
- b. A person 16 years of age or older who violates this act shall be fined a maximum of \$25 for a first offense and a maximum of \$100 for a subsequent offense. A person under 16 years of age who violates this act shall be warned of the violation by a police officer. The parent or legal guardian of that person also may be fined a maximum of \$25 for the person's first offense and a maximum of \$100 for a subsequent offense if it can be shown that the parent or guardian failed to exercise reasonable supervision or control over the person's conduct. Penalties provided in this section may be waived if an offender or his parent or legal guardian presents suitable proof that an approved helmet has been purchased since the violation occurred.
- c. The director shall publish and disseminate to the public a list of bicycle helmets approved pursuant to this act.
- d. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate this act pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).
- 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month following enactment.

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT

This bill requires a person who operates a bicycle to wear a protective helmet of a type approved by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles. During 1988, 525,000 bicycle injuries were reported by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. A significant percentage of these were serious head injuries that might have been avoided if the rider had been wearing a protective helmet.

Persons 16 years of age or older who operate a bicycle without the required headgear would be subject to a fine of up to \$25 for

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1	a first offense and up to \$100 for a subsequent offense. Persons
2	under 16 who violate the act would be warned of the violation by
3	a police officer. Furthermore, the parent or legal guardian of a
4	violator under 16 years of age would be subject to a fine if a
5	failure to exercise reasonable supervision over that person's
6	conduct can be demonstrated. The act's penalties would be
7	waived upon suitable proof that an approved helmet had been
8	purchased since the violation occurred.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Requires bicycle riders to wear protective helmets.

ASSEMBLY CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3655

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 1990

The Assembly Consumer Affairs Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 3655 with committee amendments.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill 3655 supplements chapter 4 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes to require every bicycle operator to wear an approved bicycle helmet. To qualify as an "approved bicycle helmet," the bill specifies that the helmet must meet either the standards set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard) or the Snell Memorial Foundation's 1984 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling.

Under the provisions of the amended bill, violators 16 years of age or older would be subject to a fine of up to \$25 for a first offense and to a fine of up to \$100 for any subsequent offense. Violators under the age of 16 would receive a warning from any law enforcement officer. The parents or legal guardians of a violator under the age of 16 may be fined up to \$25 for the child's first offense and up to \$100 for any subsequent offense by the child, if it is shown that the parent or guardian neglected to exercise reasonable supervision or control over the violator's conduct.

The fines, however, may be waived if the violator or in the case of a violator who is under the age of 16, the child's parent or legal guardian, presents suitable proof that an approved helmet has been purchased since the date of the violation.

According to the sponsors' statement: "During 1988, 525,000 bicycle injuries were reported by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. A significant percentage of these were serious head injuries that might have been avoided if the rider had been wearing a protective helmet."

SR 0064 TR 0092

ASSEMBLY ACO COMMITTEE

ADOPTED

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ASSEMBLY, No. 3655 (Sponsored by Assemblyman CIMINO and Assemblywoman COOPER)

REPLACE SECTION 1 TO READ:

1. a. A person shall not operate a bicycle unless that person is wearing 1[a protective] an approved bicycle 1 helmet 1[of a type approved by the director. The helmet shall be equipped with a neck or chin strap and be reflectorized on both sides]. For the purposes of this act, an "approved bicycle helmet" is one which meets the standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard) or the Snell Memorial Foundation's 1984 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling¹.

A person 16 years of age or older who violates this act shall be fined a maximum of \$25 for a first offense and a maximum of \$100 for a subsequent offense. A person under 16 years of age who violates this act shall be warned of the violation by a police officer. The parent or legal guardian of that person also may be fined a maximum of \$25 for the person's first offense and a maximum of \$100 for a subsequent offense if it can be shown that the parent or guardian failed to exercise reasonable supervision or control over the person's conduct. Penalties provided in this section may be waived if an offender or his parent or legal guardian presents suitable proof that an approved helmet has been purchased since the violation occurred.

c. The director shall publish and disseminate to the public a list of bicycle helmets approved pursuant to this act.

¹[d. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate this act pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).]1

FT 16 EE

Document ID 77 LP 0064 SR 0018 TR 0092

Speaker Clerk (3)

ASSEMBLY Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman CIMINO)

Majority Leader

to

Minority Leader Sponsor of Aa

Assembly, No. 3655 (1R)

FLB 23 1991

Sponsor Of Dipred by Assemblymen CIMINO and KELLY)

REPLACE SECTION 1 TO READ:

1. a. A person shall not operate ²or ride upon² a bicycle unless that person is wearing ¹[a protective] an approved bicycle ¹ helmet ¹[of a type approved by the director. The helmet shall be equipped with a neck or chin strap and be reflectorized on both sides]. For the purposes of this act, an "approved bicycle helmet" is one which meets the standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard) or the Snell Memorial Foundation's 1984 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling¹.

b. A person 16 years of age or older who violates this act shall be fined a maximum of \$25 for a first offense and a maximum of \$100 for a subsequent offense. A person under 16 years of age who violates this act shall be warned of the violation by a police officer. The parent or legal guardian of that person also may be fined a maximum of \$25 for the person's first offense and a maximum of \$100 for a subsequent offense if it can be shown that the parent or guardian failed to exercise reasonable supervision or control over the person's conduct. Penalties provided in this section may be waived if an offender or his parent or legal guardian presents suitable proof that an approved helmet has been purchased since the violation occurred.

²All monies collected as fines under this subsection shall be deposited in a nonlapsing revolving fund to be known as the "Bicycle Safety Fund." Interest earned on monies deposited in the fund shall accrue to the fund. Monies in the fund shall be utilized by the director exclusively for the purposes of providing educational programs devoted to bicycle safety and, if sufficient monies are available and in a manner prescribed by rule and regulation, of providing financial aid to assist low income families in purchasing approved bicycle helmets. For the purposes of this subsection, low income family means a family which qualifies for low income housing under the standards promulgated by the Council on Affordable Housing pursuant to the provisions of P.L. 1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-302 et seq.).²

c. The director shall publish and disseminate to the public a list of bicycle helmets approved pursuant to this-act.

¹[d. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate this act pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).]¹

Amendments to ASSEMBLY, No. 3655 (1R) Page 2

²d. The director, in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.²

REPLACE SYSNOPSIS TO READ:

Requires bicycle riders to wear protective helmets; prescribes that penalty monies be used for safety education programs and to assist low income families purchase protective helmets.

STATEMENT

The Assembly amendments require that all the moneys collected as fines from persons who fail to wear a protective helmet when riding a bicycle be used exclusively by the director to provide bicycle safety education programs and to assist low income families in purchasing approved bicycle safety helmets.

The amendments also clarify that the helmet requirement applies to passengers on bicycles.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, No. 3655

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 5, 1991

The Senate Law, Public Safety and Defense Committee favorably reports a Senate Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3655.

This committee substitute supplements chapter 4 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes to require a bicycle operator, or rider, under the age of 14 years to wear an approved bicycle helmet. To qualify as an "approved bicycle helmet," the bill specifies that the helmet must meet either the standards set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard) or the Snell Memorial Foundation's 1984 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling.

The requirement for the wearing of a bicycle helmet would apply whenever a bicycle is operated on any property opened to the public, or used by the public, for pedestrian or vehicular purposes. However, a municipality may by ordinance exempt from the bike helmet requirement a bicycle operator or rider when the bicycle is operated on a road, route, course, boardwalk, path or other area which is limited to pedestrian travel and closed to motor vehicle traffic.

Under the provisions of the committee substitute, a violator would receive a warning from a law enforcement officer and, in addition, the parent or legal guardian of the violator may be fined up to \$25 for the child's first offense and up to \$100 for any subsequent offense, if it is shown that the parent or guardian neglected to exercise reasonable supervision or control over the child's conduct. These fines, however, may be waived if the child or the parent or legal guardian presents suitable proof that an approved helmet has been purchased since the date of the violation.

The fines collected will be deposited in a "Bicycle Safety Fund" for use in providing bicycle safety education programs and assisting low income families to purchase helmets.

The committee substitute also requires a person engaged in the business of selling and renting bicycles to inform the purchaser or renter of the requirement to wear a helmet and to obtain the signature of the purchaser or renter on a form. The person providing the bicycle for rent would be required to provide a helmet for rent to any person who requests one. If these procedures are followed, the person engaged in the business of selling or renting bicycles would be granted immunity from liability in a civil action for the physical injury suffered by a person who failed to wear a helmet as required by law.