

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5274

To prohibit the District of Columbia from requiring a person to wear a protective helmet to operate, or ride on, a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Mr. SHEEHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit the District of Columbia from requiring a person to wear a protective helmet to operate, or ride on, a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ride in Freedom Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING HELMET REQUIRE-**
6 **MENT TO OPERATE MOTORCYCLE IN DIS-**
7 **TRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Council of the District of Co-
9 lumbia may not enact, and the Mayor of the District of
10 Columbia may not enforce, any act, resolution, or other

1 requirement that prohibits a person from operating, or
 2 riding on, a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle unless wear-
 3 ing a protective helmet.

4 (b) REPEAL OF EXISTING REQUIREMENT.—Section
 5 2215.3 title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Reg-
 6 ulations, as added by section 7(o)(2) of the Motorized Bi-
 7 cycle Amendment Act of 2012 (D.C. Law 19–290), is re-
 8 pealed.

9 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO HOME RULE
 10 ACT.—Section 602(a) of the District of Columbia Home
 11 Rule Act (sec. 1–206.02(a), D.C. Official Code) is amend-
 12 ed—

13 (1) in paragraph (9), by striking “office; or”
 14 and inserting “office;”;

15 (2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at
 16 the end and inserting “; or”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(11) enact any act, resolution, regulation or
 19 other requirement that prohibits a person from oper-
 20 ating, or riding on, a motorcycle or motor-driven
 21 cycle unless wearing a protective helmet (as those
 22 terms are defined in the Ride in Freedom Act).”.

23 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) HELMET.—The term “helmet” means a hel-
 25 met that meets the standards set forth in section

1 741 of title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal
2 Regulations.

3 (2) MOTORCYCLE; MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLE.—The
4 terms “motorcycle” and “motor-driven cycle” have
5 the meanings given those terms in section 9901 of
6 title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regu-
7 lations.

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