

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 8 (Senator Hollinger)

Judicial Proceedings

In-Line Roller Skating - Protective Helmets and Headgear

This bill requires children under the age of 16 to wear protective headgear while using in-line roller skates. Acceptable headgear must meet or exceed the standards set by the American National Standards Institute, the Snell Memorial Foundation, or the American Society of Testing and Measurements. Offenders will be issued a warning that informs the offender of the requirement to wear a helmet and that provides educational materials about helmet use.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The requirement to wear a helmet while in-line skating is not punishable by a fine. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Children under the age of 16 are required to wear approved helmets while riding a bicycle. There is no requirement for any protective gear while operating in-line roller skates.

Background: There were an estimated 22.5 million people who used in-line roller skates in 1995 (the most recent year of available data). Of those individuals, 100,000 required emergency care for skating related injuries. By far the most common injuries involved the wrists and hands.

New York is the only nearby state that requires protective headgear while in-line skating.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Department of Legislative Services

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