

“HELMET LAW” (Missouri House Bill # 1963)

On Tuesday, July 14, 2020, Governor Mike Parson signed a bill into law part of which repeals *Missouri's all-rider motorcycle helmet law*. **House Bill 1963** covered several transportation provisions, including repealing the helmet law to require only people under the age of 26, or older than 26 and driving it with a permit, to wear a helmet when riding in or driving a motorcycle or motor tricycle.

It stated qualified operators who are 26 or older don't have to wear a helmet if he or she is covered by health insurance, and law enforcement cannot pull over riders to check if they are following helmet laws.

On Aug 28, , if you are 26 yrs. old and older, have verifiable health insurance, and have a motorcycle rating on your Missouri Driver's License there will be no requirement to wear a helmet in the State of Missouri. So how does that effect an organization that is a purveyor, supporter, and makes mention of it in their Constitution, By-Laws, and Pre-Amble?

1. The State ALR at first tried to mandate helmet use and then walked it back and left it to the Chapters to decide. The reason they did so is:
 - a. Possible of loss of membership and fundraising opportunities
 - b. The ALR is a program under each individual post and not a National Program.
 - c. The State ALR will mandate DOT Certified helmet use for the Annual “Legacy Ride” and any ALR Event associated with State and/or National American Legion Family Events.
2. **Where does our Chapter stand?** The Executive Board stated, and the Safety Officer/ Road Captain agreed, that if you hold a position within the Chapter 5 ALR (ie group leader, road guard, Officer) that you should be a purveyor of and promote motorcycle safety which includes wearing of a DOT Certified helmet. Many of us Served in the Military, whether the individual or family, and those that support the Military along with others who serve in organizations and positions with similar lines as to defending the Constitution, our unalienable rights, and the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

I as both Director and as Dan Levasseur stand firm on our ability for freedom of choice and will continue to pursue those avenues; **however**, I and the Executive Board will continue to promote motorcycle safety and endorse the wearing of a DOT certified helmet. Please understand this is my individual choice and also a requirement of holding a position within the ALR.

Some of us will try and not wear a DOT Certified helmet at ALR events and that is fine, it is your individual choice. As stated earlier, we all Served or currently Serve in organizations where we do so not because of I or ME but because of greater good of the organization, in other words we and us. Being human there are aspects of our Organization and/or Job that we don't particularly appreciate but we do those things anyways for the greater good of the organization.

Some of us in this room and friends of ours made comments about people who wear sandals and shorts and even tried to mandate what to wear on the “Legacy Ride”. They did this not because of a personal agenda but for the greater good of and what the ALR promotes, that is motorcycle safety. Just as we joined the American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and eventually the Riders we did not join for I or Me but for the greater good of the Organization, its missions, and causes, again we and us.

3. The State ALR is currently working on By-law changes which will include items about the helmet law along with a waiver. The State ALR is designing a sort of “Bullet-Proof” type of waiver with the intent that membership signs one yearly when paying for their dues and that everyone will sign when participating in multi-organizational events. Our Chapter By-Laws will reflect the State By-Laws with the exception of what stated above. Until that is done our Chapter will proceed forward with what was stated.

QUESTIONS – COMMENTS – CONCERNS??