**PROPOSAL**

I. **Title:** Bill To Amend Florida Statute 316.211 To Mandate All Motorcyclists To Wear Helmets

II. **Purpose:** Mandating that all motorcyclists irrespective of age be required to wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle in the State of Florida.

III. **Action to be taken:** Changing the current State of Florida Statute 316.211 (3)(b) which states: “Notwithstanding subsection (1), a person over 21 years of age may operate or ride upon a motorcycle without wearing protective headgear securely fastened upon his or her head if such person is covered by an insurance policy providing for at least $10,000 in medical benefits for injuries incurred as a result of a crash while operating or riding on a motorcycle. The law will mandate that any who rides a motorcycle must wear a helmet

IV: **Impact:**

* According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Highway Loss Data Institute, helmets are about 37% effective in preventing motorcycle deaths and about 67% percent effective in preventing brain injuries;
* A 2012 Government Accountability Office report found that states without a universal helmet law showed that 59% of the motorcyclists killed were not wearing helmets as opposed to only 8% in states with universal helmet laws;
* Comparably, since the state of Pennsylvania repealed its motorcycle helmet law in 2003, motorcyclists’ head injury fatalities increased by 66%, and hospitalization for motorcycle-related head injuries increased by 78%;
* Riders injured without helmets cost more to treat at the hospital, spend a longer time in rehabilitation, and are more likely to require some form of public assistance to pay for medical bills and rehabilitation;

V: **Cost:**

* Limited to changing statute and updating Department of Motor Vehicles data base;
* No other costs associated with Bill because all information can be found online;
* The need to inform the public can be done via various State of Florida websites.

VI: **Alignment with state law:** The following bill is a modification/Amendment of a current

 state law: “No one may operate motorcycle without wearing a helmet”.