



SR0244

LRB097 12054 GRL 55828 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate recognize
3 bicycling as a positive, important activity for children under
4 the age of 16, for the purposes of transportation, exercise,
5 recreation, and general physical and mental well-being; and

6 WHEREAS, Five of every six middle school students and more
7 than two of every three high school students report riding
8 bicycles within the past year; and

9 WHEREAS, Significant numbers of children are injured while
10 riding bicycles, in many instances with injuries that could
11 have been prevented or reduced in seriousness if the young
12 bicycle riders were wearing bicycle helmets; and

13 WHEREAS, Nationally, only 20% to 25% of all bicyclists wear
14 bicycle helmets, despite the fact that nearly 70% of all fatal
15 bicycle crashes involve head injuries; and

16 WHEREAS, Bicycle helmets reduce the risk of head injuries
17 by up to 88% and reduce the risk of facial injuries by 65%;
18 thousands of head and facial injuries suffered by Illinois
19 children would be prevented every year if every child wore a
20 bicycle helmet; and

1 WHEREAS, 500,000 bicycle-related injuries are treated in
2 U.S. hospital emergency rooms every year, with over half the
3 injured being children and nearly half those injuries involving
4 the head or neck region; and

5 WHEREAS, The annual cost of bicycle-related injuries and
6 deaths in the United States is \$8 billion; every dollar spent
7 on a bicycle helmet saves our society \$30 in indirect medical
8 costs; and

9 WHEREAS, Numerous Illinois retailers, community groups,
10 and hospital programs currently make bicycle helmets available
11 to children at low or no cost; and

12 WHEREAS, Numerous groups advocate for bicycle helmet usage
13 by children, including the American Academy of Pediatrics
14 (Illinois Chapter), the Brain Injury Association of Illinois,
15 the Chicago Medical Legal Partnership for Children, the
16 Children's Memorial Hospital, the Cook County Department of
17 Public Health, Health and Disability Advocates, Helmets
18 First!, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians, the Illinois
19 Association of School Nurses, the Illinois Chapter of the
20 Emergency Nurses Association, the Illinois Hospital
21 Association, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Illinois
22 Maternal and Child Health Coalition, the Loyola University
23 Medical Center, the Quad Cities Bicycle Club, the

1 Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, SafeKids Illinois, the
2 Chicago Shriners Hospital for Children, the Macon County and
3 Winnebago County Shriners Hospitals for Children, the
4 Stakeholders Collaboration to Improve Student Health, Think
5 First National Injury Prevention (7 Illinois Chapters), and the
6 University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital; and

7 WHEREAS, Educating children as to the benefit of wearing
8 bicycle helmets while cycling will contribute to their safety
9 and well-being; numerous agencies and associations, including
10 the office of the Illinois Secretary of State, the Illinois
11 Department of Public Health, local health and law enforcement
12 departments, schools, medical professionals, advocates for
13 children, cycling groups, and retail sellers of bicycles, could
14 provide a great service to Illinois children by expanding,
15 commencing, or collaborating on activities designed to convey
16 this message of great public value; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Governor
19 and the Illinois Secretary of State to convene a task force or
20 working group, composed of representatives of the
21 aforementioned or like-minded groups, to explore, discuss, and
22 coordinate efforts to conduct a public awareness campaign to
23 educate the general public about the value of cycling to
24 children, along with the safety benefits of children wearing

1 bicycle helmets; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge Illinois schools, under the
3 direction of the State Board of Education, to participate in
4 the development of activities and programs that would encourage
5 child bicycle riders to wear bicycle helmets; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 delivered to Governor Pat Quinn and Secretary of State Jesse
8 White.