

Transportation Committee

SENATE FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-290

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ROADWAY SAFETY.

Vote Date: 3/23/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/5/2018

File No.: 277

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Transportation Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Creates an additional fine ranging from \$100 to \$200 if a driver fails to drive a reasonable distance apart from another vehicle that results in a motor vehicle accident.

Requires protective headgear for children under age 16 which includes skateboarding, non-motorized scootering, roller skating and in-line skating and broadens the DCP prevue to establish public awareness promoting the use of headgear. (Effective date: October 1, 2018)

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

NONE

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Senator Cathy Osten - In support of helmets for skateboarders noted in Section 2 of the bill. The provisions are modeled after similar laws in Rhode Island and New Jersey and other states around the country.

Holly Irwin – On December 5, 2016 Mrs. Irwin's son, Conor died from a head injury as the result of not wearing a helmet while skateboarding. Helmets are not required and many stores do not even sell skateboard helmets. Fifty-two percent of all skateboard injuries occur to children under 15 years old. Common injuries include facial injuries, concussions, Traumatic Brain Injuries and death. The family would like the law to be called Conor's Law.

Joe Courtney – In support of evidenced-based protective gear to avoid serious injury as recommended by American Academy of Pediatrics.

Arthur Marcelynas – Mr. Marceline’s’ son was killed by a falling tree while driving on Route 6 in 2017. He is requesting an amendment to SB 290 that would require DOT establish a process of identifying and removing decaying trees along state roadways; additionally requesting DOT establish and maintain a database available to the public. Mr. Marcelynas noted several people have died or been injured by falling trees in 2017 and the current DOT reporting process is ineffective

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

NONE

Reported by: Eileen Bronko, Assistant Clerk

Date: 3/27/18