



RIDE SMART FLORIDA

Define Mopeds & Scooters as Motorcycles for License Endorsement and Helmet Use

PROBLEM: Motorcycles, mopeds, and scooters are defined differently in Florida Statutes as they pertain to operator licensing, training, and laws governing helmet use.

BACKGROUND: In Florida, motorcycle riders are required to have an endorsement on their license and complete formal training to operate on public roads. Also, per Florida Statute, motorcycle riders ages 16–21 are required to use a helmet. Current statutes make an exception to these requirements for mopeds and scooters based on engine size (under 50cc) and speed (max 30 mph). While motorcycle riders are governed by the protective Statutes, anyone can ride a moped or a scooter with no license, no prior training or experience, and no helmet even if the rider is under 21. With recent technology advancements, mopeds/ scooters under 50cc can easily exceed speeds over 30mph. In addition, moped/scooter riding has grown significantly as a primary means of transportation, especially around college campuses because of their low cost and parking flexibility. Mopeds and scooters face the same dangers and driving conditions encountered by all motorized vehicle operators on public roads regardless of engine size. Endorsement and mandatory training to reduce crashes and fatalities for motorcycles as well as mopeds and scooters are necessary for consistent public policy.

SOLUTION: All operators of 2- or 3-wheeled motorized vehicles licensed for street use, including mopeds and scooters, must have an endorsement, received mandatory training, and must adhere to the helmet laws that currently govern motorcycles. We propose amending the Florida Statutes 316.003(41), 316.211(3)(a), and 322.01(26) by eliminating the moped/scooter exception that is based on size and speed so that they are governed by the same statutes as motorcycles. This would apply to Florida resident operators only; moped and scooters rented by tourists would be excluded.

CALL TO ACTION AND SUPPORT: Law enforcement, colleges/universities, doctors, medical associations and researchers support this call to action.



With Motorcycle, Scooter Accidents Largely On The Rise, Safety Is On Law Enforcement Officers' Minds

By Vanessa Blankenship

🕒 December 13, 2018 📌 Public safety

Bryn Berkowitz was driving her white Piaggio Fly 50 scooter this past May on Southwest 9th Road, where she has lived for the past four years, when she got into an accident.

She was coming up to a stoplight when a black Sedan in front of her pulled off to the side to do a U-turn while Berkowitz was still driving at full speed.

“I had the choice of either slamming on my brakes and flipping myself over the front of my scooter or try to brake in time and kind of hope for the best,” Berkowitz said.

Berkowitz slammed into the driver’s side of the motor vehicle and was ejected off her scooter.

“I don’t remember how I landed on the road,” Berkowitz said. “I don’t remember if anyone helped me up or how I got up.”

Berkowitz, a University of Florida graduate student studying forensic medicine, was not wearing a helmet at the time. She did not suffer life-threatening injuries and left the crash scene with only a sprained elbow.

Even after the accident, Berkowitz still prefers to not wear a helmet. The only time she wears one is when she is riding her scooter in the rain.

“I’m the classic example of what happens if you don’t, and I got very lucky. But I still don’t wear it, which is very stupid, but I still feel safe in Gainesville,” Berkowitz said. “I just think that the person who hit me wasn’t that smart.”



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Two Bikers From Century Critically Injured In Highway 29 Crash

June 12, 2019



Two bikers from Century critically injured in a crash Tuesday evening on Highway 29 near McDavid.

The Florida Highway Patrol said 49-year old Susan Nichols was on a 2016 moped traveling north on Highway 29 at Whirlpool Road when she made an improper lane change about 7:07 p.m. Her moped entered the inside lane and collided with a northbound Harley Davidson motorcycle. Nichols and 45-year old James Cooko of Century were both ejected into the median.

The moped came to rest in Highway 29 just north of the crash location, while the Harley continued north for several hundred feet after Cooko was ejected.

Both bikers were airlifted to Sacred Heart Hospital in separate medical helicopters. The FHP said they were not wearing helmets.