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3 Title: Rescind Public Act 98 of 2012  
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5 Introduced by: William Meurer, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation  
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7 Original Author: William Meurer, MD  
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee D  
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11 House Action: **APPROVE**  
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14 Whereas, in April 2012, Governor Snyder signed Public Act 98, eliminating the 46-year old  
15 universal helmet requirement for motorcyclists, and  
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17 Whereas, the results of a study looking at 1) Spectrum Health Hospital admissions records  
18 and 2) state transportation department records of fatalities at crash scenes for the seven-month  
19 motorcycle season (April to November) in 2011, before the law was repealed, compared to the  
20 same period in 2012, 2013 and 2014 were reported in the American Journal of Surgery of  
21 November 4, 2015. This study found that among riders who died at the crash scene, the proportion  
22 not wearing helmets rose from 14 percent before the law was repealed to 68 percent afterward  
23 and deaths at the scene of the crash more than quadrupled. The study further found that among  
24 accident victims who survived and were brought to the hospital, the proportion not wearing  
25 helmets rose from 7 percent before the law was repealed to 28 percent afterward and deaths in the  
26 hospital tripled, and  
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28 Whereas, Public Act 98 of 2012 requires at least \$20,000 in additional medical insurance,  
29 but this requirement is rarely enforced, and head injuries and their severity have increased, and  
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31 Whereas, overall, hospital costs in the three-year study period averaged \$27,760 for non-  
32 helmeted riders versus \$20,970 for patients who had been wearing helmets, and  
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34 Whereas, taxpayers and other insurance payers often bear this additional cost, and  
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36 Whereas, 13 states implemented universal helmet requirements for motorcyclists in the  
37 1960's and '70's and have wisely never reduced or repealed them; and, 11 states that did reduce or  
38 repeal helmet requirements have subsequently expanded or reinstated them; therefore be it  
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40 RESOLVED: That MSMS lobby the Michigan Legislature to repeal Public Act 98 of 2012 and  
41 reinstate a universal helmet requirement for all motorcyclists in order to reduce morbidity,  
42 mortality and medical costs.  
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45 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Reference(s):

1. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/biker-injuries-and-deaths-soar-after-michigan-repeals-helmet-law\\_us\\_568feb56e4b0c8beacf6be7a](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/biker-injuries-and-deaths-soar-after-michigan-repeals-helmet-law_us_568feb56e4b0c8beacf6be7a)
2. [http://www.americanjournalofsurgery.com/article/S0002-9610\(15\)30005-2/abstract](http://www.americanjournalofsurgery.com/article/S0002-9610(15)30005-2/abstract)
3. <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/laws/helmetuse/helmethistory>