

*Amend
1st reading for
11/7/25 JGA*

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Title 42 of the Palau National Code to require moped operators and passengers to wear a safety helmet, and for other related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF PALAU REPRESENTED IN THE OLBIIL ERA KELULAU DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1. Legislative findings.** The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that under current law,
2 there is no mandatory safety helmet requirement for an individual operator or passenger of a
3 moped. The Olbiil Era Kelulau further finds that there is no justifiable reason for exempting
4 moped operators or passengers from safety helmet requirements because regardless of whether
5 one is riding a motorcycle or moped, there is a serious risk of injury or death.

6 The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that there is a wealth of research providing evidence that
7 wearing safety helmets can save lives and reduce the risk of serious injury and head trauma.
8 According to a study carried out by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a
9 part of the United States Department of Transportation, in the U.S. states that have universal
10 helmet safety laws there is a lower rate of motorcycle fatalities, injuries, and head trauma.
11 Head trauma can cause a lifetime of cognitive problems, sleep disorders, memory loss, and
12 disability. Beyond reducing the risk of death, injury, or a lifelong disability, universal safety
13 helmet laws have been found to have a positive impact on the economy due to a reduction in
14 health care costs and burdens and with respect to maintaining a healthy workforce. For these
15 reasons, the Olbiil Era Kelulau proposes amending Title 42 of the Palau National Code to
16 require moped operators and passengers to wear a safety helmet on all roads throughout the
17 Republic.

18 **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 808 of Title 42 of the Palau National Code is hereby
19 amended as follows:

20 “**§ 808. Safety helmets, passenger, and mufflers on motorcycles.**

21 (a) Operators and passengers of any motorcycle or motor bike or motor scooter
22 ~~or moped with an engine displacement of more than fifty (50) cubic centimeters~~, and any
23 attachments thereto, while such vehicle is being operated on any street or highway within the
24 Republic, shall wear on their heads safety helmets that are constructed with straps that
25 fasten under the chin, and such straps must be fastened under the chin at all times.

1 (b) Operators of any motorcycle or motorbike or motor scooter or moped, while
2 such vehicle is being operated on any street or highway within the Republic, shall not carry
3 more than one (1) passenger at any one time. If a side car is attached to a motorcycle or motor
4 bike or motor scooter or moped, the operator shall not carry more than one (1) passenger on
5 the motor vehicle proper, and no more than one (1) passenger shall be carried in the side car
6 attached thereto, except that one child under seven years of age may be seated therein in
7 addition to the above.

8 (c) Operators of any motorcycle or motorbike or motor scooter or moped ~~with~~
9 ~~an engine displacement of more than fifty (50) cubic centimeters~~, and any attachments thereto,
10 while such is being operated on any street or highway within the Republic, shall not allow
11 any passenger on their vehicles who does not wear a safety helmet.

12 (d) Operators of any motorcycle or motorbike or motor scooter or moped ~~with~~
13 ~~an engine displacement of more than fifty (50) cubic centimeters~~, and any attachments thereto,
14 while such vehicle is being operated on any street or highway within the Republic, shall
15 be liable for punishment if a passenger on the operator's vehicle does not conform with
16 subsection (c) above.

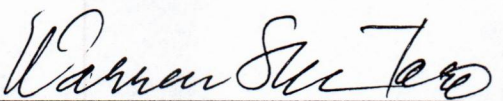
17 (e) Any motorcycle or motorbike or motor scooter or moped, with or without
18 attachment thereto, while such vehicle is being operated on any street or highway within the
19 Republic, shall be equipped with a properly operating muffler that adequately moderates
20 engine sounds produced by the vehicle.

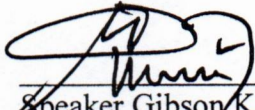
21 (f) A violation of any provision of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor
22 that shall be punishable by a fine of not less than five dollars (\$5) nor more than one hundred
23 dollars (\$100) or imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both."

24 **Section 3. Effective date.** This Act shall take effect ninety days (90) after its approval
25 by the President of the Republic of Palau, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Date: 11/06/25

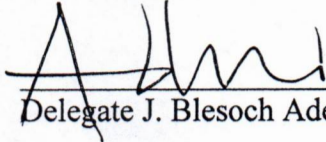
Introduced by:


Floor Leader Warren S. Umetaro

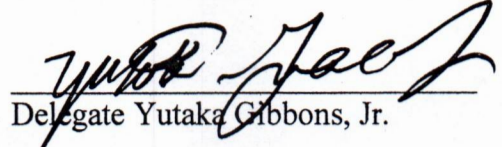


Speaker Gibson Kanai

Vice Speaker Mario S. Gulibert



Delegate J. Blesoch Aderkeroi



Delegate Yutaka Gibbons, Jr.

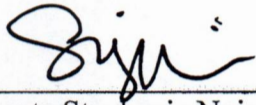
Delegate Noah Kemesong



Delegate Portia Franz Kesolei

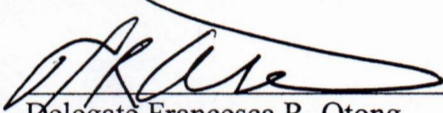
Delegate Sebastian R. Marino

Delegate Ellender Ngirameketii

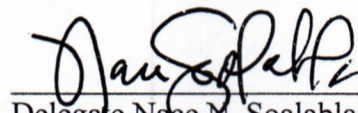


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