



# Research In Progress

## Examine Washington State's Vehicle Impoundment Law for Motorcycle Endorsements

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On July 22, 2007, Washington State enacted a law which allows law enforcement officers to impound a vehicle, including a motorcycle, if the operator is not properly licensed. For motorcycle operators, this means having a motorcycle endorsement. The State's new motorcycle-safety measure emerged from a 16-member motorcycle safety task force established in 2005 in response to the State's rising motorcycle fatalities since 1997. Before the passage of the law, one-third of the State's motorcycle fatalities were among riders without motorcycle endorsements.

The purpose of this project is to examine how this law has affected motorcycle riders. Implementation issues associated with the law, the degree to which the law is being enforced, knowledge of the law among motorcyclists, the effect on the number of motorcycle endorsements in the State, and the subsequent impact on motorcycle crashes will be examined.

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