

# **Motorcycle Helmet Law Michigan-Specific Information**

## **MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The number-one recommendation related to the topic of motorcycle personal protective equipment from the February 2005 Office of Highway Safety Planning (Michigan) Motorcycle Program Assessment is to “maintain the current motorcycle helmet use law that covers all riders in support of a Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Committee strategy.”

In December of 2004, the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee adopted the State of Michigan Strategic Highway Safety Plan, which resulted in the Department of State chairing the Motorcycle Action Team. The number-one strategy of the Governor's Strategic Highway Safety Plan related to motorcycle safety is to “maintain helmet laws and enforce the use of FMVSS 218 compliant helmets.”

The Michigan Motorcycle Safety Action Plan was completed in April 2006. This plan included the recommendations “Enforce the use of FMVSS 218 compliant helmets” within the enforcement section and “Maintain helmet laws and the use of FMVSS 218 compliant helmets” within the legislative section.

## **THE ELEMENTS OF A QUALITY TRAFFIC-SAFETY PROGRAM**

Removing or weakening mandatory helmet laws is a major step backward. It is a “slap in the face” to traffic-safety experts and cuts a huge hole in an overall traffic-safety program. Any attempt to reduce the deaths and injuries that occur on our public streets and highways must be a multifaceted approach if it is to be successful. Total traffic safety is generally thought of as having four critical components:

- Education
- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Emergency Response

It makes logical sense to support the position of the experts in traffic safety. Every competent traffic-safety expert knows a multifaceted effort is necessary. To remove one component is to cripple the effort.