## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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studies that have been done on this question, and they say And I want to get those out on the floor. significant things. I wanted to give everybody an opportunity to hear them and make what they will of them and ask questions about them because if you think about this in its totality, there are this load of studies out there that says it makes some significant difference to require helmets, and there aren't, as far as I can find so far, any studies of significance that says otherwise. And then you have this whole load of organizations out there, almost every hospital and every doctor's organization of any kind saying, with regard to the interpretation of these studies, that are almost on one side ... all on one side anyway, that, yeah, they make sense. So before we ignore all that, I want to be sure you're aware of at least some of it, as I've tried to acquaint myself with at least some of it. But again, going back to the GAO information that I was giving you earlier, they have a section on what is the price of not wearing helmets: hospitalization and related medical expenses are higher for unhelmeted riders because of brain injuries. That makes sense. Here's what the data tells us. The average charge for inpatient care of motorcyclists who sustain a brain injury is more than twice the charge for motorcyclists receiving inpatient care for other injuries. The average savings for prevented brain injuries in Hawaii, Maine, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin was \$15,000 in inpatient costs for each incident in the first year. The average hospitalization costs for unhelmeted riders were one-third greater than those of helmeted riders. This is an Illinois study of motorcyclists. Who pays the price? A large number of studies have focused on this issue, and although the percentages vary, one central point remains clear. Whether it's taxpayers or insurance customers or medical customers, we all pay. For example, a privately conducted California study put the average cost of hospital admissions for a nonhelmeted rider at \$17,704. Of this initial amount, 72 percent of the costs for hospitalization were paid by the state of California, with another 10 percent being paid by other tax-based sources. Another study found that 57 percent of the patients listed a government program as the principal payor of inpatient hospital costs resulting from motorcycle crashes. And by the way, there...I'm not going to repeat this because I tried to make this point earlier, but there is also a National