



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 10, 2016

The Honorable James H. Lucas
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives,

Today, I am vetoing and returning without my approval R298, H.3440, **a bill that imposes new regulations for adult moped drivers.**

Among other things, this bill requires all adult moped drivers to wear reflective vests at night and requires all drivers – including adults ages 18-20 – to wear helmets at all times. These new regulations exceed those for motorcycles and are inconsistent with laws for bicycles and other low-speed vehicles, such as golf carts.

While I support safety laws for children and support certain provisions in this bill that define mopeds and require mopeds to have working lights at night, other provisions go too far in regulating the behavior of adults. **I believe that adults over the age of 18 – who are allowed to vote and serve our military – should decide for themselves what they should wear for their personal safety.**

Many mopeds are used by adults who cannot afford a car to get to and from work, while many other mopeds are used by adults in and around college campuses. State moped laws should continue to allow for this kind of inexpensive, reliable transportation for citizens, but this bill goes too far. **Mandating that adults must wear helmets or safety vests is government overreach.**

I commit to working with the General Assembly next year to adopt a bill that defines mopeds, provides consistent regulations, and balances public safety with personal responsibility. For these reasons, I ask that you sustain my veto.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley