

# SENATE BILL No. 281

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 9-18.1-14-11; IC 14-16-1-33.

**Synopsis:** Child safety requirements for off-road vehicles. Provides that an individual less than 18 years of age is not required to wear a helmet while operating or riding on an off-road vehicle if the child is properly fastened and restrained by a child restraint system designed to protect the child's head. Provides that a person may not knowingly authorize or permit an individual less than 18 years of age to operate or ride on an off-road vehicle in violation of the statute providing helmet requirements for off-road vehicle operators.

**Effective:** July 1, 2024.

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## Messmer

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January 16, 2024, read first time and referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation.

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Second Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2024)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

# SENATE BILL No. 281



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 9-18.1-14-11, AS ADDED BY P.L.141-2017,
- 2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2024]: Sec. 11. (a) **As used in this section, "child restraint**
- 4 **system" has the meaning set forth in IC 9-13-2-23.**
- 5 **(b) Except as provided in subsection (c),** an individual less than
- 6 eighteen (18) years of age who is operating or riding on an off-road
- 7 vehicle shall wear a helmet that meets the standards established by the
- 8 United States Department of Transportation under 49 CFR 571.218 as
- 9 in effect January 1, 1979.
- 10 **(c) An individual less than eighteen (18) years of age is not**
- 11 **required to wear a helmet if:**
- 12 **(1) the individual is properly fastened and restrained by a**
- 13 **child restraint system according to the child restraint system**
- 14 **manufacturer's instructions; and**
- 15 **(2) the child restraint system is designed to protect the**
- 16 **individual's head.**
- 17 ~~(b)~~ **(d) An individual who violates this section commits a Class C**



1       infraction.  
2       SECTION 2. IC 14-16-1-33, AS ADDED BY P.L.141-2017,  
3       SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
4       JULY 1, 2024]: Sec. 33. A person who is:  
5             (1) the owner of an off-road vehicle;  
6             (2) in possession of an off-road vehicle; or  
7             (3) entitled to the possession of an off-road vehicle, whether by  
8             reason of legal title, lease, license, rental arrangement, lease with  
9             option to purchase, contract of conditional sale, or otherwise;  
10       may not knowingly authorize or permit an individual less than eighteen  
11       (18) years of age to operate ~~the~~ **or ride on an** off-road vehicle in  
12       violation of IC 9-18.1-14-11.

