

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4552

To encourage and ensure the use of safe equestrian helmets, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2014

Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To encourage and ensure the use of safe equestrian helmets,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Christen O’Donnell
5 Equestrian Helmet Safety Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Head injuries are the number one reason
9 for hospital admissions of horseback riders and the

1 leading cause of death following a horseback riding
2 injury.

3 (2) Over 100 deaths per year are estimated to
4 result from equestrian related activities, with head
5 injuries accounting for 3 of every 5 of these deaths.

6 (3) Nearly 68,000 people visited the emergency
7 room in 2012 as a result of horseback riding related
8 injuries, with head injuries accounting for 22 per-
9 cent and concussions accounting for 7 percent of
10 these visits.

11 (4) Horseback riding causes 11.7 percent of
12 sports-related traumatic brain injuries, which is the
13 largest percentage of any recreational sport.

14 (5) Between 2001 and 2009, children under 19
15 made 3,638 emergency room visits per year for trau-
16 matic brain injuries resulting from horseback riding
17 accidents.

18 (6) Between 75 and 80 percent of head injuries
19 occur while physically mounted on a horse—when a
20 rider would normally be wearing his or her helmet.

21 (7) Racing organizations require helmets, and
22 as a result jockeys now sustain fewer head injuries
23 than pleasure riders.

24 (8) The U.S. Pony Clubs lowered head injury
25 rates by 29 percent through mandatory helmet use.

1 (9) Properly fitted ASTM/SEI certified helmets
2 can reduce head injury-related deaths by 70 to 80
3 percent.

4 **SEC. 3. STANDARDS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Every equestrian helmet manu-
6 factured on or after the date that is 9 months after the
7 date of enactment of this Act shall meet—

8 (1) the interim standard specified in subsection
9 (b), pending the establishment of a final standard
10 pursuant to subsection (c); and

11 (2) the final standard, once that standard has
12 been established under subsection (c).

13 (b) INTERIM STANDARD.—The interim standard for
14 equestrian helmets is the American Society for Testing
15 and Materials (ASTM) standard designated as F1163.

16 (c) FINAL STANDARD.—

17 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Con-
19 sumer Product Safety Commission shall begin a pro-
20 ceeding under section 553 of title 5, United States
21 Code, to—

22 (A) establish a final standard for eques-
23 trian helmets that incorporates all the require-
24 ments of the interim standard specified in sub-
25 section (b);

1 (B) provide in the final standard a man-
2 date that all approved equestrian helmets be
3 certified to the requirements promulgated under
4 the final standard by an organization that is ac-
5 credited to certify personal protection equip-
6 ment in accordance with ISO Guide 65; and

7 (C) include in the final standard any addi-
8 tional provisions that the Commission considers
9 appropriate.

10 (2) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.—Sec-
11 tions 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act
12 (15 U.S.C. 2056 and 2058) shall not apply to the
13 proceeding under this subsection, and section 11 of
14 such Act (15 U.S.C. 2060) shall not apply with re-
15 spect to any standard issued under such proceeding.

16 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The final standard
17 shall take effect not later than 1 year after the date
18 it is issued.

19 (d) FAILURE TO MEET STANDARDS.—

20 (1) FAILURE TO MEET INTERIM STANDARD.—
21 Until the final standard takes effect, an equestrian
22 helmet that does not meet the interim standard, re-
23 quired under subsection (a)(1), shall be considered
24 in violation of a consumer product safety standard

1 promulgated under the Consumer Product Safety
2 Act.

3 (2) STATUS OF FINAL STANDARD.—The final
4 standard developed under subsection (c) shall be
5 considered a consumer product safety standard pro-
6 mulgated under the Consumer Product Safety Act.

7 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Con-
9 sumer Product Safety Commission to carry out this Act,
10 \$500,000 for fiscal year 2014, which amount shall remain
11 available until expended.

12 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) APPROVED EQUESTRIAN HELMET.—The
15 term “approved equestrian helmet” means an eques-
16 trian helmet that meets—

17 (A) the interim standard specified in sec-
18 tion 3(b), pending establishment of a final
19 standard under section 3(c); and

20 (B) the final standard, once it is effective
21 under section 3(c).

22 (2) EQUESTRIAN HELMET.—The term “eques-
23 trian helmet” means a hard shell head covering in-

- 1 tended to be worn while participating in an eques-
- 2 trian event or activity.

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