

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Wolf and others

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Analyst: Linda Holmes, 651-296-5059

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Overview

This bill requires both amusement park riders and operators to follow rules related to safety and conduct. It requires riders to report any accidents to the operator of the ride, to follow basic safety rules, and to ensure before boarding a ride that they have the ability to use it safely. It requires operators to provide certain safety notices and other information where they will be accessible to riders.

1 Rider. Defines a "rider" as a person who is on an amusement ride, waiting to board an amusement ride, or just leaving an amusement ride. Provides that "rider" does not include employees operating the ride.

2 Rider conduct.

Subd. 1. Reports. Provides that a rider, or the parent or guardian of a minor rider, must inform the operator in writing of any injuries that occur on the ride. The report must be made before the rider leaves the amusement owner's premises or as soon as possible if it cannot be made immediately because of a serious injury. The report must contain basic information about the rider, the incident, witnesses to the incident, and the injury. Provides that failure to make a report does not affect the rider's right to bring an action in court.

Subd. 2. Code of conduct. Provides that a rider must obey reasonable posted safety rules and oral instructions made by the operator or the operator's employee. Provides a list of prohibited behavior by riders, including interfering with safe operation of the ride, disconnecting safety devices or failing to use them, altering the course or speed of the ride, extending arms and legs outside the carrier except as directed, throwing objects from or at a ride, getting off the ride except at the proper time, and failing to control a ride that is within the rider's control.

Subd. 3. Rider qualifications. Provides that a rider shall not board a ride unless the rider, and the parent of a minor rider, has determined that the rider generally has enough knowledge and ability to use the ride safely, has read posted signs, meets any height, medical, or other restrictions, is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and is authorized to board the ride.

Subd. 4. Owner responsibility. Provides that if a ride is located on property owned by someone other than the ride operator, the property owner, at the request of the operator, must remove from the property a rider who is violating or has violated the code of conduct in subdivision 2.

3 Notice to riders.

Subd. 1. General signs. Requires an operator to display certain notices and signs on the premises.

Subd. 2. Individual amusement ride signs. Requires an amusement owner to post certain safety- and conduct-related signs at each ride.