

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 64
Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 3/10/09
Third Edition Engrossed 3/11/09
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/30/09

Short Title: Motorcycle Learner's Permit.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 5, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO SHORTEN THE DURATION AND AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A
3 MOTORCYCLE LEARNER'S PERMIT, AND CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
4 OBTAINING A MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-7(a1) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a1) Motorcycles and Mopeds. – To drive a motorcycle, a person shall ~~have~~have one of
8 the following:

- 9 (1) A full provisional license with a motorcycle learner's ~~permit~~permit.
10 (2) A regular drivers license with a motorcycle learner's ~~permit~~or permit.
11 (3) ~~Either~~:
12 a. A full provisional ~~license~~license with a motorcycle endorsement.
13 b.
14 (4) A regular drivers license, with a motorcycle endorsement.

15 To obtain a motorcycle endorsement, a person shall demonstrate competence to drive a
16 motorcycle by passing a written or oral test concerning motorcycles and providing proof of
17 successful completion of one of the following:

- 18 (1) The Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or Experienced Rider
19 Course.
20 (2) The North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider
21 Course or Experienced Rider Course.
22 (3) Any course approved by the Commissioner consistent with the instruction
23 provided through the Motorcycle Safety Instruction Program established
24 under G.S. 115D-72.

25 The person shall pay the fee set in subsection (i) of this section for a motorcycle
26 endorsement. A person less than 18 years of age with a motorcycle endorsement may not drive
27 a motorcycle with a passenger. Subsection (a2) of this section sets forth the requirements for a
28 motorcycle learner's permit.

29 ~~To obtain a motorcycle endorsement, a person shall demonstrate competence to drive a~~
30 ~~motorcycle by~~:

- 31 (1) ~~Passing a road test~~;
32 (2) ~~Passing a written or oral test concerning motorcycles; and~~
33 (3) ~~Paying the fee for a motorcycle endorsement~~.

34 Neither a drivers license nor a motorcycle endorsement is required to drive a moped."

35 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-7(a2) reads as rewritten:



1 "(a2) Motorcycle Learner's Permit. – The following persons are eligible for a motorcycle
2 learner's permit:

- 3 (1) A person who is at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old and has a full
4 provisional license issued by the Division.
5 (2) A person who is at least 18 years old and has a license issued by the
6 Division.

7 To obtain a motorcycle learner's permit, an applicant shall pass a vision test, a road sign
8 test, and a written test specified by the Division. An applicant who is less than 21 years old, or
9 any applicant who has held a valid drivers license for less than two years, shall successfully
10 complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or the North Carolina
11 Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider Course. A motorcycle learner's permit
12 expires ~~18 months~~ six months after it is ~~issued.~~ issued and may be renewed for one additional
13 six-month period. The holder of a motorcycle learner's permit may not drive a motorcycle with
14 a passenger. The fee for a motorcycle learner's permit is the amount set in G.S. 20-7(l) for a
15 learner's permit."

16 **SECTION 3.** The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall determine the availability
17 of spaces for students in the Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses, the North Carolina
18 Motorcycle Safety Education Program courses, and any other motorcycle education courses the
19 Commissioner has approved in the State, in order to determine if there is adequate space in the
20 available courses to meet the expected demand, and if the projected average wait time for an
21 applicant to obtain a space in a course required by this act will exceed four weeks. The
22 Commissioner shall report the results of the study to the Joint Legislative Commission on
23 Governmental Operations on or before March 1, 2010.

24 **SECTION 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective July 1, 2010. The
25 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law. The requirement for completing a riding
26 course specified in this act does not apply to a motorcycle learner's permit issued prior to the
27 effective date of this act, or to the renewal of any motorcycle endorsement first issued prior to
28 the effective date of this act. A motorcycle learner's permit issued prior to the effective date of
29 this act expires on the date indicated on the permit and may be renewed for one additional
30 six-month period.