

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
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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~~or license with a motorcycle endorsement.
13 b.
14 (4) A regular drivers license, with a motorcycle endorsement.

15 Subsection (a2) of this section sets forth the requirements for a motorcycle learner's permit.
16 To obtain a motorcycle endorsement, a person shall pay the fee set in subsection (i) of this
17 section. In addition, to obtain an endorsement, a person age 18 or older shall demonstrate
18 competence to drive a motorcycle by:

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

22 by passing a written or oral test concerning motorcycles and passing a road test, and a person
23 less than 18 years of age shall demonstrate competence to drive a motorcycle by passing a
24 written or oral test concerning motorcycles and providing proof of successful completion of
25 one of the following:

- 26 (1) The Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or Experienced Rider
27 Course.
28 (2) The North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider
29 Course or Experienced Rider Course.
30 (3) Any course approved by the Commissioner consistent with the instruction
31 provided through the Motorcycle Safety Instruction Program established
32 under G.S. 115D-72.



1 A person less than 18 years of age with a motorcycle endorsement may not drive a
2 motorcycle with a passenger.

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

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

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

7 (1) A person who is at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old and has a full
8 provisional license issued by the Division.

9 (2) A person who is at least 18 years old and has a license issued by the
10 Division.

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

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

27 **SECTION 4.** The University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center
28 shall study whether individuals 18 to 21 years of age should be required to successfully
29 complete a motorcycle safety course prior to being issued a motorcycle learner's permit or
30 motorcycle endorsement. The Committee shall report the results of the study to the Joint
31 Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee on or before March 1, 2010.

32 **SECTION 5.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective January 1, 2011. The
33 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law. The requirement for completing a riding
34 course specified in this act does not apply to a motorcycle learner's permit issued prior to the
35 effective date of this act, or to the renewal of any motorcycle endorsement first issued prior to
36 the effective date of this act. A motorcycle learner's permit issued prior to the effective date of
37 this act expires on the date indicated on the permit and may be renewed for one additional
38 six-month period.