

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  
PROPOSED HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S64-PCS35351-SU-68

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~~



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1           (3) ~~Paying the fee for a motorcycle endorsement.~~

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

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

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

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

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

10          To obtain a motorcycle learner's permit, an applicant shall pass a vision test, a road sign  
11 test, and a written test specified by the Division. An applicant who is less than 21 years old, or  
12 any applicant who has held a valid drivers license for less than two years, shall successfully  
13 complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or the North Carolina  
14 Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider Course. A motorcycle learner's permit  
15 expires ~~18 months~~ six months after it is ~~issued.~~ issued and may be renewed for one additional  
16 six-month period. The holder of a motorcycle learner's permit may not drive a motorcycle with  
17 a passenger. The fee for a motorcycle learner's permit is the amount set in G.S. 20-7(1) for a  
18 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.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective July 1, 2010. The  
28 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law. The requirement for completing a riding  
29 course specified in this act does not apply to a motorcycle learner's permit issued prior to the  
30 effective date of this act, or to the renewal of any motorcycle endorsement first issued prior to  
31 the effective date of this act. A motorcycle learner's permit issued prior to the effective date of  
32 this act expires on the date indicated on the permit and may be renewed for one additional  
33 six-month period.