

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

S

3

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

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.

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

27 ~~To obtain a motoreyele endorsement, a person shall demonstrate competence to drive a~~
28 ~~motoreyele by:~~

- 29 (1) ~~Passing a road test;~~
30 (2) ~~Passing a written or oral test concerning motoreyeles; and~~
31 (3) ~~Paying the fee for a motoreyele endorsement.~~

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

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

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



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

5 To obtain a motorcycle learner's permit, an applicant shall pass a vision test, a road sign
6 test, and a written test specified by the Division. An applicant who is less than 18 years old, or
7 any applicant who has held a valid drivers license for less than two years, shall successfully
8 complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or the North Carolina
9 Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider Course. A motorcycle learner's permit
10 expires ~~18 months~~ six months after it is ~~issued.~~ issued and may be renewed for one additional
11 six-month period. The holder of a motorcycle learner's permit may not drive a motorcycle with
12 a passenger. The fee for a motorcycle learner's permit is the amount set in G.S. 20-7(1) for a
13 learner's permit."

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

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