
SENATE BILL 6062

State of Washington

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By Senators Fain, Hargrove, Harper, Kilmer, Haugen, Litzow, Hobbs, Tom, Hill, Conway, King, and Roach

Read first time 01/11/12. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to motorcycles; amending RCW 46.04.330, 46.20.500,
2 46.20.505, 46.20.515, and 46.81A.020; reenacting and amending RCW
3 46.81A.010; adding new sections to chapter 46.04 RCW; and providing an
4 effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.04.330 and 2009 c 275 s 2 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) "Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle designed to travel on not
9 more than three wheels in contact with the ground, on which the driver:
10 ~~((+1))~~ (a) Rides on a seat or saddle and the motor vehicle is
11 designed to be steered with a handlebar; or

12 ~~((+2))~~ (b) Rides on a seat in a partially or completely enclosed
13 seating area that is equipped with safety belts and the motor vehicle
14 is designed to be steered with a steering wheel.

15 (2) "Motorcycle" includes a motor vehicle as described in
16 subsection (1)(a) of this section that is originally designed to travel
17 on two wheels but is modified using a conversion kit that adds two
18 stabilizing wheels on the rear of the motor vehicle.

1 (3) "Motorcycle" excludes a farm tractor, a power wheelchair, an
2 electric personal assistive mobility device, a motorized foot scooter,
3 an electric-assisted bicycle, and a moped.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 "Single-track motorcycle" means a motorcycle that the operator must
7 countersteer to turn at speeds of thirty or more miles per hour and
8 typically leaves a single ground track as it moves forward in a
9 straight line.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 "Multitrack motorcycle" means a motorcycle that the operator need
13 not countersteer to turn at speeds of thirty or more miles per hour and
14 typically leaves two or more ground tracks as it moves forward in a
15 straight line.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.20.500 and 2009 c 275 s 4 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) No person may drive either a (~~two-wheeled~~) single-track or a
19 (~~three-wheeled~~) multitrack motorcycle, or a motor-driven cycle unless
20 such person has a valid driver's license specially endorsed by the
21 director to enable the holder to drive such vehicles.

22 (2) However, a person sixteen years of age or older, holding a
23 valid driver's license of any class issued by the state of the person's
24 residence, may operate a moped without taking any special examination
25 for the operation of a moped.

26 (3) No driver's license is required for operation of an electric-
27 assisted bicycle if the operator is at least sixteen years of age.
28 Persons under sixteen years of age may not operate an electric-assisted
29 bicycle.

30 (4) No driver's license is required to operate an electric personal
31 assistive mobility device or a power wheelchair.

32 (5) No driver's license is required to operate a motorized foot
33 scooter. Motorized foot scooters may not be operated at any time from
34 a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise without
35 reflectors of a type approved by the state patrol.

1 (6) A person holding a valid driver's license may operate a
2 motorcycle as defined under RCW 46.04.330(~~(+2)~~) (1)(b) without a
3 motorcycle endorsement.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.20.505 and 2007 c 97 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Every person applying for a special endorsement of a driver's
7 license authorizing such person to drive a (~~two~~) single-track or
8 (~~three-wheeled~~) multitrack motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle shall
9 pay a fee of five dollars, which is not refundable. In addition, the
10 endorsement fee for the initial motorcycle endorsement shall not exceed
11 ten dollars, and the subsequent renewal endorsement fee shall not
12 exceed twenty-five dollars, unless the endorsement is renewed or
13 extended for a period other than five years, in which case the
14 subsequent renewal endorsement fee shall not exceed five dollars for
15 each year that the endorsement is renewed or extended. Fees collected
16 under this section shall be deposited in the motorcycle safety
17 education account of the highway safety fund.

18 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.20.515 and 2011 c 370 s 5 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) The motorcycle endorsement examination must emphasize maneuvers
21 necessary for on-street operation, including emergency braking and
22 turning as may be required to avoid an impending collision.

23 (2) The examination for a (~~two-wheeled~~) single-track motorcycle
24 endorsement and the examination for a (~~three-wheeled~~) multitrack
25 motorcycle endorsement must be separate and distinct examinations
26 emphasizing the skills and maneuvers necessary to operate each type of
27 motorcycle.

28 (3) The department may authorize an entity that has entered into a
29 contract under RCW 46.20.520 to administer the motorcycle endorsement
30 examination.

31 (4) The department may waive all or part of the examination for
32 persons who satisfactorily complete the voluntary motorcycle operator
33 training and education program authorized under RCW 46.20.520 or who
34 satisfactorily complete a private motorcycle skills education course
35 that has been certified by the department under RCW 46.81A.020.

1 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.81A.010 and 2003 c 353 s 11 and 2003 c 41 s 4 are
2 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
4 this section apply throughout this chapter.

5 (1) "Motorcycle skills education program" means a motorcycle rider
6 skills training program to be administered by the department.

7 (2) "Department" means the department of licensing.

8 (3) "Director" means the director of licensing.

9 (4) "Motorcycle" (~~means a motor vehicle designed to travel on not~~
10 ~~more than three wheels in contact with the ground, on which the driver~~
11 ~~rides astride the motor unit or power train and is designed to be~~
12 ~~steered with a handlebar, but excluding farm tractors, electric~~
13 ~~personal assistive mobility devices, mopeds, motorized foot scooters,~~
14 ~~motorized bicycles, and~~) has the same meaning as provided in RCW
15 46.04.330, excluding off-road motorcycles.

16 **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.81A.020 and 2007 c 97 s 2 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) The director shall administer and enforce the law pertaining to
19 the motorcycle skills education program as set forth in this chapter.

20 (2) The director may adopt and enforce reasonable rules that are
21 consistent with this chapter.

22 (3) The director shall revise the Washington motorcycle safety
23 program to:

24 (a) Institute separate novice and advanced motorcycle skills
25 education courses for both (~~two-wheeled~~) single-track and (~~three-~~
26 ~~wheeled~~) multitrack motorcycles that are each a minimum of eight hours
27 and no more than sixteen hours at a cost of (i) no more than fifty
28 dollars for Washington state residents under the age of eighteen, and
29 (ii) no more than one hundred twenty-five dollars for Washington state
30 residents who are eighteen years of age or older and military personnel
31 of any age stationed in Washington state;

32 (b) Encourage the use of loaned or used motorcycles for use in the
33 motorcycle skills education course if the instructor approves them;

34 (c) Require all instructors for (~~two-wheeled~~) single-track
35 motorcycles to conduct at least three classes in a one-year period, and
36 all instructors for (~~three-wheeled~~) multitrack motorcycles to conduct

1 at least one class in a one-year period, to maintain their teaching
2 eligibility.

3 (4) The department may enter into agreements to review and certify
4 that a private motorcycle skills education course meets educational
5 standards equivalent to those required of courses conducted under the
6 motorcycle skills education program. An agreement entered into under
7 this subsection must provide that the department may conduct periodic
8 audits to ensure that educational standards continue to meet those
9 required for courses conducted under the motorcycle skills education
10 program, and that the costs of the review, certification, and audit
11 process will be borne by the party seeking certification.

12 (5) The department shall obtain and compile information from
13 applicants for a motorcycle endorsement regarding whether they have
14 completed a state approved or certified motorcycle skills education
15 course.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act takes effect January 1, 2013.

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