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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

S.B. 271

123rd General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Transportation & Public Safety)

Sens. Wachtmann, Spada, Armbruster

Reps. Clancy, Mettler, Patton, Olman, Damschroder, Mead

BILL SUMMARY

- Beginning January 1, 2001, exempts persons who successfully complete an approved motorcycle safety course from the requirement to pass a skills test before obtaining a motorcycle operator's endorsement or a restricted license to operate a motorcycle only.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Current law requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to conduct an examination of every applicant for a temporary instruction permit, driver's license, or motorcycle operator's endorsement (sec. 4507.10).¹ Prior to obtaining a motorcycle operator's endorsement or restricted license to operate a motorcycle only, an applicant must give an actual demonstration of the ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motorcycle (a skills test) by driving it under the supervision of an examining officer (sec. 4507.11). Additionally, each applicant for a motorcycle endorsement or restricted license who is under 18 must present satisfactory evidence of completing the course of instruction offered by the Department of Public Safety's motorcycle safety and education program (sec. 4507.21, not in the bill).

Safety courses under the motorcycle safety and education program may cost up to \$25 and must meet the standards established by the Motorcycle Safety

¹ Typically, authorization to operate a motorcycle is obtained by means of a motorcycle operator's endorsement that appears on a person's driver's license. Once obtained, a motorcycle endorsement does not expire provided the person continues to hold a valid driver's license. Infrequently, a person may obtain a restricted license that permits only the operation of a motorcycle. The examination for a motorcycle endorsement or a restricted license is not repeated if the person maintains a valid license.

Foundation. Currently, the courses are 22 hours long, with eight hours in the classroom and 14 hours on a riding range. Successful completion of the course requires passage of a written test and a skills test. Courses are conducted by certified instructors at vocational schools, community colleges, and other suitable locations.² (Sec. 4508.08, not in the bill.)

Under the bill, no skills test is required for an applicant for a motorcycle operator's endorsement or a restricted license for motorcycles who presents an approved form attesting to the applicant's successful completion within the preceding 60 days of an approved course of basic instruction provided by the motorcycle safety and education program. The endorsement or restricted license is issued upon presentation of the form and compliance with all other related requirements. A person who is under 18 continues to be subject to all requirements for issuance of a license, including the requirement that the person attend the motorcycle safety course.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-22-00	pp. 1518-1519
Reported, S. Highways & Transportation	05-03-00	pp. 1650-1651
Passed Senate (32-0)	05-03-00	p. 1656
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	05-17-00	pp. 1995-1996

S0271-RH.123/jc

² *The Department of Public Safety reportedly has thirteen permanent locations and also operates a mobile program.*