



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### H.B. 463

128th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Moran, Murray, Pillich, Harris, Domenick, Letson, Pryor, Hagan

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Permits a person who has a valid driver's or commercial driver's license to operate an enclosed three-wheel motorcycle that is equipped with both a steering wheel and an electric motor without first having to obtain a motorcycle operator's endorsement.
- Permits a person to operate such a motorcycle without wearing an approved helmet or safety glasses or other protective eye device.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Motorcycle operation licensing

A "motorcycle" is defined in the motor vehicle traffic and equipment laws as "every motor vehicle, other than a tractor, having a seat or saddle for the use of the operator and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including, but not limited to, motor vehicles known as 'motor-driven cycle,' 'motor scooter,' or 'motorcycle' without regard to weight or brake horsepower" (R.C. 4511.01(C), not in the bill). A driver's or commercial driver's license in and of itself does not authorize a person to operate a motorcycle on the public roads. The holder of such a license who wishes to do so must obtain a motorcycle endorsement on the person's driver's or commercial driver's license. A person who does not have a driver's or commercial driver's license and wishes to operate only a motorcycle on the public roads must obtain a restricted license that authorizes the person to so operate only a motorcycle; such a restricted license does not authorize the holder to operate a car or truck. (R.C. 4510.12(A)(2), not in the bill.)

Current law provides, however, that a person who has a valid driver's or commercial driver's license need not obtain a motorcycle operator's endorsement in order to operate a motorcycle that has three wheels and a motor of not more than 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement (R.C. 4507.03(A)(4)). The bill retains this provision, but provides also that a person who has a valid driver's or commercial driver's license need not obtain a motorcycle operator's endorsement in order to operate an enclosed three-wheel motorcycle that is equipped with both a steering wheel and an electric motor.

### **Motorcycle operator equipment requirements**

Current law prohibits any person from operating or being a passenger on a motorcycle without using safety glasses or some other protective eye device. A person who is under 18 years of age or who holds a motorcycle operator's endorsement or restricted license bearing a "novice" designation that is currently in effect (such a person is a "novice" for one year from the date of issuance of the person's motorcycle operator's endorsement or restricted license) is prohibited from operating a motorcycle on a highway, or being a passenger on a motorcycle, unless the person is wearing a protective helmet on the person's head, and no other person may be a passenger on a motorcycle operated by such a person unless similarly wearing a protective helmet. The helmet, safety glasses, or other protective eye device must conform to regulations prescribed and promulgated by the Director of Public Safety. (R.C. 4511.53(B).)

The bill retains these prohibitions and requirements, but provides that they do not apply to a person who is operating an enclosed three-wheel motorcycle (R.C. 4511.53(C)(2)).

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### **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Introduced	03-11-10

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