

1 HB576  
2 130306-1  
3 By Representatives Farley, Treadaway, Weaver, Tuggle, Ball,  
4 Johnson (W), McCutcheon, Beckman and Boothe  
5 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
6 First Read: 27-APR-11

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a person age 16 or older  
9 may operate a motorcycle and a person age 14 or  
10 older may operate a motor-driven cycle. A  
11 motor-driven cycle is defined as a motorcycle which  
12 is smaller in weight and power.

13 The Department of Public Safety issues Class  
14 M motorcycle licenses and Class M motorcycle  
15 licenses restricted to the operation of a  
16 motor-driven cycle and issues Class M motorcycle  
17 endorsements on driver's licenses for the operation  
18 of motorcycles.

19 This bill would require a person who on the  
20 effective date of the act does not have a Class M  
21 motorcycle license or endorsement on his or her  
22 license to take and pass a motorcycle knowledge  
23 test given by the Department of Public Safety in  
24 order to have a motorcycle endorsement displayed on  
25 his or her driver's license or to obtain a Class M  
26 motorcycle license, including a Class M motorcycle  
27 license restricted to a motor-driven cycle.



1 prospectively after a certain date for persons 17 years of age  
2 or younger to be licensed.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. Sections 32-5A-240 and 32-12-22 of the  
5 Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

6 "§32-5A-240.

7 "(a) Every person operating a motorcycle shall be  
8 granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the  
9 duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under  
10 this chapter, except as to special regulations in this article  
11 and except as to those provisions of this chapter which by  
12 their nature can have no application.

13 "(b) After the effective date of the act adding this  
14 subsection, a person shall have a Class M endorsement on his  
15 or her driver's license or have a Class M motorcycle license  
16 in order to operate a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle.  
17 Except as otherwise provided for a Class M motorcycle license  
18 restricted to a motor-driven cycle, a Class M endorsement or a  
19 Class M motorcycle license may be issued to a person age 16 or  
20 older. A Class M motorcycle license restricted to a  
21 motor-driven cycle may be issued to a person age 14 or older.

22 "(c) Any person who, on the effective date of this  
23 act adding the subsection, does not have a Class M endorsement  
24 on his or her driver's license or who does not have a Class M  
25 motorcycle license shall be required to successfully pass a  
26 motorcycle knowledge test designated by the Department of  
27 Public Safety in order to have a motorcycle Class M

1 endorsement on his or her driver's license or to receive a  
2 Class M motorcycle license.

3 "(d) The provisions of Section 32-6-7.2 relating to  
4 the hours of operation of a motor vehicle by persons under age  
5 18 shall apply to any person under the age of 18 operating a  
6 motorcycle or motor-driven cycle without regard to the length  
7 of time the person has been licensed to operate a motorcycle  
8 or a motor-driven cycle, but the person shall be subject to  
9 any other exception in Section 32-6-7.2. In addition, the  
10 person shall be subject to the suspension of his or her  
11 driver's license or Class M motorcycle license, including a  
12 Class M motorcycle license restricted to a motor-driven cycle,  
13 for a conviction under subsection (d) of Section 32-6-7.2.

14 "(e) Effective June 1, 2012, a Class M motorcycle  
15 license or a Class M endorsement on a driver's license shall  
16 be issued to a person 16 or 17 years old only if the person  
17 can pass a skills test as provided by rule of the Department  
18 of Public Safety demonstrating that the person is competent to  
19 operate a motorcycle safely.

20 "§32-12-22.

21 ~~"Every person, except a person holding a driver's~~  
22 ~~license issued under authority of Chapter 6 of this title,~~  
23 ~~before operating any motor-driven cycle upon a public highway~~  
24 ~~in this state, shall register it with the Director of Public~~  
25 ~~Safety and procure an operator's license. Operators' licenses~~  
26 ~~shall be issued under and be governed by the provisions of~~  
27 ~~Chapter 6 of this title; except, that such a license shall be~~

1 ~~issued to any person 14 years of age and older if such a~~  
2 ~~person can satisfy the Director of Public Safety or an~~  
3 ~~examining officer that he or she is competent to operate a~~  
4 ~~motor-driven cycle with safety to persons and to property.~~

5 "(a) A Class M motorcycle license with a  
6 motor-driven cycle restriction may be issued to any person 14  
7 years of age and older only if the person can pass a  
8 motorcycle knowledge test designated by the Department of  
9 Public Safety.

10 "(b) Effective June 1, 2012, a Class M motorcycle  
11 license with a motor-driven cycle restriction may be issued to  
12 any person 17 years of age or younger only if the person  
13 passes a skills test as provided by rule of the Department of  
14 Public Safety demonstrating that the person is competent to  
15 operate a motorcycle safely.

16 Section 2. This act shall become effective  
17 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
18 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.