

SENATE BILL NO. 150—SENATORS GUSTAVSON;  
CEGAVSKE AND HAMMOND

FEBRUARY 18, 2013

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN FIORE, HANSEN; DUNCAN,  
ELLISON, HAMBRICK, MUNFORD AND WHEELER

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the equipment and training required to operate a motorcycle. (BDR 43-54)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to motorcycles; revising provisions governing the wearing of protective headgear when operating motorcycles under certain circumstances; requiring that all applicants for a motorcycle driver’s license complete an approved motorcycle safety course; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law defines a motorcycle to mean a motor vehicle equipped with a seat  
2 or a saddle and designed to travel on not more than three wheels, specifically  
3 excluding an electric bicycle, a tractor and a moped. (NRS 486.041) Under existing  
4 law, an applicant for a motorcycle driver’s license is required to complete a written  
5 examination and driving test or complete a course of motorcycle safety approved  
6 by the Department of Motor Vehicles. (NRS 486.071) **Sections 1-3** of this bill  
7 require all applicants for a motorcycle driver’s license or a motorcycle endorsement  
8 to a driver’s license to successfully complete an approved motorcycle safety course.  
9 **Section 5** of this bill exempts a person who obtains such a license or endorsement  
10 before July 1, 2013, from the requirement to successfully complete an approved  
11 motorcycle safety course. Existing law requires drivers and passengers of  
12 motorcycles that are driven on a highway to wear protective headgear and exempts  
13 drivers and passengers of trimobiles and mopeds from the requirement. (NRS  
14 486.231) **Section 4** of this bill eliminates the requirement of wearing protective  
15 headgear for drivers of motorcycles who: (1) are 21 years of age or older; and (2)  
16 have possessed a valid motorcycle license for not less than 1 year. **Section 4** also



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17 removes the exception from these requirements concerning protective headgear for  
18 trimobiles and mopeds. Additionally, **section 4** eliminates the requirement of  
19 wearing protective headgear for a passenger of a motorcycle who is 21 years of age  
20 or older.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1       **Section 1.** NRS 486.071 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2       486.071 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 486.161, the  
3 Department shall not issue a motorcycle driver's license unless the  
4 applicant:

- 5       1. Is at least 16 years of age; and
- 6       2. Has successfully completed:
  - 7       (a) Such written examination and driving test as may be required  
8 by the Department; ~~for~~ *and*
  - 9       (b) A course of motorcycle safety approved by the Department.

10       **Sec. 2.** NRS 486.131 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11       486.131 1. The Department may require every applicant for a  
12 motorcycle driver's license to submit to an examination conducted  
13 by the Department . ~~for successfully complete a course of~~  
14 ~~motorcycle safety approved by the Department.~~

15       2. An examination may be held in the county where the  
16 applicant resides within 30 days after the date application is made  
17 and may include:

- 18       (a) A test of the applicant's ability to understand official devices  
19 used to control traffic;
- 20       (b) A test of the applicant's knowledge of practices for safe  
21 driving and the traffic laws of this State;
- 22       (c) Except as otherwise provided in a regulation adopted  
23 pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 483.330, a test of the applicant's  
24 eyesight; and
- 25       (d) An actual demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise  
26 ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motorcycle.

27       ➤ The examination may also include such further physical and  
28 mental examination as the Department finds necessary to determine  
29 the applicant's fitness to drive a motorcycle safely upon the  
30 highways.

31       **Sec. 3.** NRS 486.161 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32       486.161 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4,  
33 every motorcycle driver's license expires on the fourth anniversary  
34 of the licensee's birthday, measured in the case of an original  
35 license, a renewal license or a license renewing an expired license,  
36 from the birthday nearest the date of issuance or renewal. Any  
37 applicant whose date of birth is February 29 is, for the purposes of



1 NRS 486.011 to 486.381, inclusive, considered to have the  
2 anniversary of his or her birth fall on February 28.

3 2. Every license is renewable at any time before its expiration  
4 upon application, submission of the statement required pursuant to  
5 NRS 486.084 and payment of the required fee. Every motorcycle  
6 endorsement to a driver's license issued on or after January 1, 1972,  
7 expires simultaneously with the expiration of the driver's license.

8 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1 of NRS  
9 483.384, each applicant for renewal must appear before an examiner  
10 for a driver's license and successfully pass a test of the applicant's  
11 eyesight.

12 4. Any person who has been issued a driver's license without  
13 having the authority to drive a motorcycle endorsed thereon must,  
14 before driving a motorcycle, successfully : ~~pass;~~

15 (a) ~~Pass~~ *Pass such* driving test ~~conducted~~ *as may be required*  
16 by the Department; ~~or~~ *and*

17 (b) ~~Complete~~ *Complete a* course of motorcycle safety approved by the  
18 Department,

19 and have the authority endorsed upon the license.

20 **Sec. 4.** NRS 486.231 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 486.231 1. The Department shall adopt standards for  
22 protective headgear and protective glasses, goggles or face shields  
23 to be worn by the drivers and passengers of motorcycles and  
24 transparent windscreens for motorcycles.

25 2. Except as *otherwise* provided in this section, when any  
26 motorcycle ~~except a trimobile or moped,~~ is being driven on a  
27 highway ~~;~~ :

28 (a) *The driver shall wear protective headgear which meets the*  
29 *standards adopted pursuant to subsection 1 and is securely*  
30 *fastened on his or her head, unless the driver:*

31 (1) *Is 21 years of age or older; and*

32 (2) *Has been licensed to operate a motorcycle for not less*  
33 *than 1 year.*

34 (b) *Any passenger of the motorcycle shall wear protective*  
35 *headgear which meets the standards adopted pursuant to*  
36 *subsection 1 and is securely fastened on his or her head, unless*  
37 *the passenger is 21 years of age or older.*

38 (c) ~~Both~~ the driver and passenger shall wear ~~protective~~  
39 ~~headgear securely fastened on the head and~~ protective glasses,  
40 goggles or face shields ~~meeting those standards. Drivers and~~  
41 ~~passengers of trimobiles shall wear protective glasses, goggles or~~  
42 ~~face shields~~ which meet ~~those~~ *the* standards ~~adopted pursuant~~  
43 *to subsection 1.*

44 3. When a motorcycle ~~or a trimobile~~ is equipped with a  
45 transparent windscreen ~~meeting those standards,~~ *which meets the*



1 *standards adopted pursuant to subsection 1*, the driver and  
2 passenger are not required to wear *protective* glasses, goggles or  
3 face shields.

4 4. When a motorcycle is being driven in a parade authorized by  
5 a local authority, the driver and passenger are not required to wear  
6 the protective devices provided for in this section.

7 5. When a three-wheel motorcycle on which the driver and  
8 passengers ride within an enclosed cab is being driven on a  
9 highway, the driver and passengers are not required to wear the  
10 protective devices required by this section.

11 **Sec. 5.** Notwithstanding the amendatory provisions of this act,  
12 the requirement to successfully complete an approved motorcycle  
13 safety course before obtaining a motorcycle driver's license or a  
14 motorcycle endorsement to a driver's license does not apply to a  
15 person who obtains such a license or endorsement before July 1,  
16 2013.

17 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

