

2024 -- S 2836

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS'
LICENSES

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Lawson, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 22, 2024

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

(Dept. of Revenue)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-10-31 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators'
2 and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-10-31. Fees.**

4 The following fees shall be paid to the division of motor vehicles:

5 (1) For every operator's first license to operate a motor vehicle, twenty-five dollars
6 (\$25.00);

7 (2) For every chauffeur's first license, twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); provided, that when a
8 Rhode Island licensed operator transfers to a chauffeur's license, the fee for the transfer shall be
9 two dollars (\$2.00);

10 (3) ~~For every learner's permit to operate a motorcycle, twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);~~

11 (4) For every operator's first license to operate a motorcycle, ~~twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)~~
12 fifty dollars (\$50.00);

13 (5) For every renewal of an operator's or chauffeur's license, thirty dollars (\$30.00); with
14 the exception of any person seventy-five (75) years of age or older for whom the renewal fee will
15 be eight dollars (\$8.00);

16 (6) For every duplicate operator's or chauffeur's license and every routine information
17 update, i.e., name change or address change, twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);

18 (7) For every certified copy of any license, permit, or application issued under this chapter,

1 ten dollars (\$10.00);

2 (8) For every duplicate instruction permit, ten dollars (\$10.00);

3 (9) For every first license examination, five dollars (\$5.00);

4 (10) For surrender of an out-of-state license, in addition to the above fees, five dollars
5 (\$5.00).

6 SECTION 2. Sections 31-10.1-1 and 31-10.1-1.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10.1
7 entitled "Special License for Motorcycles, Motor Scooters, and Other Motor Driven Cycles" are
8 hereby amended to read as follows:

9 **31-10.1-1. License required.**

10 (a) No resident of this state, except those expressly exempted in this chapter, shall drive
11 any two-wheeled (2) motorcycle or motor-driven cycle upon a highway in this state, unless the
12 person shall first obtain a special license as an operator under the provisions of this chapter;
13 provided, however, motorized bicycles and motor scooters with a motor rated not more than four
14 and nine-tenths horsepower (4.9 h.p.) and not greater than fifty cubic centimeters (50 cc), which is
15 capable of a maximum speed of not more than thirty miles per hour (30 m.p.h.), shall be exempt
16 from the provisions of this section. No person shall be licensed pursuant to this chapter unless he
17 or she shall be at least sixteen (16) years of age or unless the person previously has been issued a
18 full operator's license ~~and a motorcycle learner's permit~~ [or a limited provisional license and has](#)
19 [satisfied the requirements of § 31-10.1-3\(a\)](#) or is already licensed under a prior act of this state.
20 Any person under the age of eighteen (18) duly licensed under the prior act shall be eligible to have
21 his or her license renewed in the same manner as persons over the age of eighteen (18). All licenses
22 issued pursuant to this chapter shall reflect any requirement of the operator to wear a helmet
23 pursuant to § 31-10.1-4.

24 (b) No resident of this state, except those expressly exempted in this chapter, shall drive
25 any three-wheeled (3) motorcycle or motor-driven cycle upon a highway in this state, unless the
26 person shall first obtain a special license as an operator under the provisions of this chapter;
27 provided, however, motorized bicycles and motor scooters with a motor rated not more than four
28 and nine-tenths horsepower (4.9 h.p.) and not greater than fifty cubic centimeters (50 cc), which is
29 capable of a maximum speed of not more than thirty miles per hour (30 m.p.h.), shall be exempt
30 from the provisions of this section. No person shall be licensed pursuant to this chapter unless he
31 or she shall be at least sixteen (16) years of age or unless the person previously has been issued a
32 full operator's license ~~and a motorcycle learner's permit~~ [or a limited provisional license and has](#)
33 [satisfied the requirements of § 31-10.1-3\(b\)](#) or is already licensed under a prior act of this state.
34 Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years duly licensed under the prior act shall be eligible

1 to have their license renewed in the same manner as persons over the age of eighteen (18) years.
2 All licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall reflect any requirement of the operator to wear a
3 helmet pursuant to § 31-10.1-4.

4 (c) Any person currently licensed pursuant to this chapter, prior to March 1, 2022, shall
5 continue to be permitted to operate both two-wheeled (2) and three-wheeled (3) motorcycles and
6 motor-driven cycles without further examination.

7 [\(d\) The holder of a special license as an operator under the provisions of this chapter who](#)
8 [has a limited provisional license may drive the motorcycle only at times when the license holder](#)
9 [could drive a motor vehicle without supervision pursuant to § 31-10-6.](#)

10 **31-10.1-1.2. Approved motorcycle rider education program.**

11 (a) The council on postsecondary education and/or the Community College of Rhode
12 Island may certify motorcycle dealers engaged in selling motorcycles or an association engaged in
13 motorcycle safety to provide motorcycle driver education courses in the state if the curriculum used
14 during the course of instruction is certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, or other programs
15 approved by the council and/or the Community College of Rhode Island.

16 (b)(1) The course of instruction for operation of two-wheeled (2) motorcycles shall provide
17 students with a minimum of sixteen and a half (16½) hours of combined classroom instruction, and
18 on the range motorcycle training for a beginner rider course, and a minimum of five (5) hours for
19 a licensed rider course.

20 (2) The course of instruction for operation of three-wheeled (3) motorcycles shall provide
21 students with a minimum of sixteen and a half (16½) hours of combined classroom instruction, and
22 on the range motorcycle training for a beginner rider course, and a minimum of five (5) hours for
23 a licensed rider course.

24 (c) In order for an instructor to teach in a motorcycle rider education program in the state,
25 the person shall meet all of the following requirements:

26 (1) Must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older, and must possess a valid drivers license
27 recognized by the state of Rhode Island for at least three (3) consecutive years;

28 (2) Possess a high school diploma or GED;

29 (3) Must be certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation as an instructor;

30 (4) Must be licensed to teach motorcycle training in the state of Rhode Island;

31 (5) An instructor has not had more than one moving traffic violation within one year prior
32 to obtaining certification; not more than two (2) moving violations within a three-year (3) period
33 prior to licensure as a motorcycle rider education instructor; and not more than three (3) moving
34 violations within a five-year (5) period prior to licensure as a motorcycle rider education instructor;

1 (6) An instructor has not had their driving privileges suspended or revoked in the five (5)
2 preceding years prior to obtaining certification by the state of Rhode Island;

3 (7) An instructor has no driving under the influence of alcohol or drug convictions within
4 ten (10) years prior to obtaining certification by the state of Rhode Island as a motorcycle rider
5 education instructor;

6 (8) Must successfully pass a criminal background check by the department;

7 (9) For out of state instructors, the person must provide the department with a certified
8 copy of their driving record from the previous five (5) years.

9 (d) Class sizes shall not exceed twenty-four (24) students in the classroom, and twelve (12)
10 on the range during instruction.

11 (e) A student, ~~unless specified under § 31-10.1-2~~, who successfully completes a department
12 approved two-wheeled (2) motorcycle rider education program's skills and written test
13 requirements, shall be deemed compliant with § 31-10.1-1.1(a)(1) and exempted from the road test
14 under § 31-10.1-3(a) provided the student passes a written, vision, and road sign examination at a
15 department licensing facility. A student, ~~unless specified under § 31-10.1-2~~, who successfully
16 completes a department approved three-wheeled (3) motorcycle rider education program's skills
17 and written test requirements, shall be deemed compliant with § 31-10.1-1.1(a)(2) and exempted
18 from the road test under § 31-10.1-3(b), provided the student passes a written, vision, and road sign
19 examination at a department facility. In order to take the written, vision, and road sign examination
20 under § 31-10.1-3(a) or (b) the student shall bring their Motorcycle Safety Foundation completion
21 card and a road test waiver form provided by the rider education program where the course was
22 successfully completed. The road test waiver form shall include the following:

23 (1) Student's full name, as written on their valid drivers license;

24 (2) Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic Rider Course Completion Card number;

25 (3) Course completion date;

26 (4) Dealership or association name;

27 (5) Dealership or association contact name;

28 (6) MSF Rider Education Recognition Program number, or equivalent;

29 (7) Instructor's name, signature, and Motorcycle Safety Foundation number or an identifier
30 from any other program approved by the council and/or the Community College of Rhode Island
31 instructor number.

32 (f) The department or the Community College of Rhode Island has the right to inspect
33 ranges to ensure they fulfill the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's range standards for motorcycle
34 training. The department shall have the right to inspect the courses authorized under this section at

1 any time. The entity providing the motorcycle rider education program shall maintain records for a
2 minimum of two (2) years, including those who participated in the class, those who successfully
3 completed the class, and those individuals who failed any portion of the class.

4 (g) No state subsidies shall be provided to a dealer or association for operating a motorcycle
5 driver education program under this section.

6 (h) The state of Rhode Island shall not be liable for any acts or omissions on the part of
7 motorcycle dealers and/or associations in the implementation of the motorcycle rider education
8 program pursuant to this section.

9 (i) Each dealership and/or association seeking to provide a motorcycle driver education
10 course under this chapter shall pay an application fee of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) and
11 a yearly renewal fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) to the office of higher education for the purpose
12 of program oversight.

13 SECTION 3. Section 31-10.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10.1 entitled "Special
14 License for Motorcycles, Motor Scooters, and Other Motor Driven Cycles" is hereby repealed.

15 **31-10.1-2. Learner's permit.**

16 ~~(a)(1) Upon applying for a first license to drive a two-wheeled (2) motorcycle and after~~
17 ~~successfully completing a motorcycle driver education program pursuant to § 31-10.1-1.1(a)(1) and~~
18 ~~after satisfying the requirements of § 31-10.1-3(a), the administrator of the division of motor~~
19 ~~vehicles may issue a motorcycle learner's permit to take instruction in the operation of a two-~~
20 ~~wheeled (2) motorcycle which entitles the holder to operate or drive a two-wheeled (2) motorcycle~~
21 ~~on the public highway, other than a limited access highway, as a learner, under the general~~
22 ~~supervision, and whether or not under the immediate control, of a licensed motorcycle operator, at~~
23 ~~least eighteen (18) years of age.~~

24 ~~(2) Upon applying for a first license to drive a three-wheeled (3) motorcycle and after~~
25 ~~successfully completing a motorcycle driver education program pursuant to § 31-10.1-1.1(a)(2) and~~
26 ~~after satisfying the requirements of § 31-10.1-3(b), the administrator of the division of motor~~
27 ~~vehicles may issue a motorcycle learner's permit to take instruction in the operation of a three-~~
28 ~~wheeled (3) motorcycle which entitles the holder to operate or drive a three-wheeled (3) motorcycle~~
29 ~~on the public highway, other than a limited access highway, as a learner, under the general~~
30 ~~supervision, and whether or not under the immediate control, of a licensed motorcycle operator, at~~
31 ~~least eighteen (18) years of age.~~

32 ~~(3) A person who has been issued a learner's permit may not carry passengers other than~~
33 ~~the supervising driver on the motorcycle until the person has been licensed to operate a motorcycle.~~

34 ~~(b) The following persons are eligible for a motorcycle learner's permit:~~

1 ~~(1) A person who is at least sixteen (16) years old but less than eighteen (18) years old and~~
2 ~~has a limited provisional license or a full operator's license issued by the division of motor vehicles.~~

3 ~~(2) A person who is at least eighteen (18) years old and has a license issued by the division~~
4 ~~of motor vehicles.~~

5 ~~(c) The holder of a motorcycle learner's permit who has a limited provisional license may~~
6 ~~drive the motorcycle only at times when the license holder could drive a motor vehicle without~~
7 ~~supervision pursuant to § 31-10-14.~~

8 ~~(d) A motorcycle learner's permit expires eighteen (18) months after it is issued.~~

9 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect three (3) months after passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS'
LICENSES

- 1 This act would amend several provisions relative to motorcycles and motor scooter license
- 2 and educational requirements including deleting the learners permit requirement for motorcycles.
- 3 This act would take effect three (3) months after passage.

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