

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1119

6
7 S.P. 364

In Senate, March 8, 1983

8 Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
9 Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent down for concurrence
and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Danton of York.

11 Cosponsors: Senator Baldacci of Bangor and Representative Perry of Ox-
ford.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Require Motorcycle Driver
18 Education Prior to Licensure to Operate
19 a Motorcycle.
20

21 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
22 follows:

23 29 MRSA §583, as amended by PL 1981, c. 52, §3,
24 is further amended to read:

25 §583. Driver education required

26 No operator's license, except to operate a moped
27 only, shall be issued to any person under 17 years of
28 age unless such person shall present a certificate of
29 successful completion of a driver education course
30 and examination given by the public secondary schools
31 and academies receiving tuition students as described
32 in Title 20, section 1291; or certificate of success-

1 full completion of a driver education course and exam-
2 ination given by some person or persons licensed by
3 the Secretary of State. No license shall be required
4 of certified teachers conducting a driver education
5 course in public secondary schools or academies
6 receiving tuition students as described in Title 20,
7 section 1291. All licenses expire on December 31st of
8 the year of issue.

9 Successful course completion certificates may be
10 issued to any person permitted by law to have a li-
11 cense provided such course, given by the public
12 secondary schools and academies receiving tuition
13 students as described in Title 20, section 1291,
14 shall meet teacher qualification, course content and
15 standards approved by the State Board of Education.
16 Successful course completion certificates shall not
17 be issued to any person who was not at least 15 years
18 of age at the commencement of the driver education
19 course.

20 After September 17, 1977, ~~no~~ No motorcycle or
21 motor driven cycle learner's permit or permission or
22 restriction to operate a motorcycle or motor driven
23 cycle ~~shall~~ may be issued to any person ~~under 17~~
24 ~~years of age, unless such that person shall present~~
25 ~~presents~~ a certificate of successful completion of a
26 motorcycle driver education course and examination
27 given by the public secondary schools and academies
28 receiving tuition students, as described in Title 20,
29 section 1291; or certificate of successful completion
30 of a motorcycle driver education course and examina-
31 tion given by a ~~public secondary school or academy~~
32 ~~including a demonstration of ability to safely oper-~~
33 ~~ate a motorcycle, or certificate of successful com-~~
34 ~~pletion of a driver education course and examination~~
35 ~~given by some person or persons licensed by the~~
36 ~~Secretary of State~~ Commissioner of Business Regula-
37 tion. No license ~~shall~~ may be required of certified
38 teachers conducting a motorcycle driver education
39 course in public secondary schools or academies
40 receiving tuition students, as described in Title 20,
41 section 1291. All licenses expire on December 31st of
42 the year of issue.

43 Any person between the ages of 15 and 17, who
44 satisfies the Secretary of State that no readily

1 available means of transportation exists to and from
2 a secondary school or academy which he is attending,
3 may be issued, upon passing the regular driver's
4 examination as provided in section 581, a special
5 permit authorizing such person to drive to and from
6 such school or academy.

7

STATEMENT OF FACT

8 The purpose of this bill is to require training
9 in safe motorcycle operation as a prerequisite for
10 license to operate a motorcycle. The bill will also
11 correct errors and inconsistencies in the current
12 law. Present practices authorize legal motorcycle
13 operation for persons with no instruction designed to
14 train him to operate a motorcycle skillfully and as
15 safely as possible. The differences in characteris-
16 tics require understanding for safe operation of
17 motorcycles that aid in avoiding crashes and protect
18 them and their passengers in crashes.

19 Enactment of this bill should have a substantial
20 impact upon the number of deaths and injuries now
21 incurred by inexperienced motorcycle operators.

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