



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 399

January Session, 2019

House Bill No. 6161

House of Representatives, April 4, 2019

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF HELMETS BY MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS AND PASSENGERS UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-289g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) No person under [~~eighteen~~] twenty-one years of age may (1)
4 operate a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle, as defined in section 14-
5 1, or (2) be a passenger on a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, unless
6 such operator or passenger is wearing protective headgear of a type
7 which conforms to the minimum specifications established in 49 CFR
8 571.218, as amended from time to time. Any person who violates this
9 section shall have committed an infraction and shall be fined not less
10 than ninety dollars.

11 (b) As used in this section, the term "motorcycle" [~~shall~~] does not
12 include "autocycle".

13 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-40a of the general statutes is
 14 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
 15 *October 1, 2019*):

16 (b) A person who is sixteen years of age or older and who has not
 17 had such a license suspended or revoked may apply to the
 18 commissioner for a motorcycle instruction permit. The commissioner
 19 may issue a motorcycle instruction permit, containing [such] any
 20 limitation as [said] the commissioner deems advisable, to an applicant
 21 after the applicant has passed all parts of the examination, other than
 22 the driving skills test, for a motor vehicle operator's license with a
 23 motorcycle endorsement as required by subsection (c) of this section.
 24 The motorcycle instruction permit shall entitle the applicant, while
 25 [said] the applicant is in immediate possession of [said] the permit, to
 26 drive a motorcycle on the public highways, other than multiple lane,
 27 limited access highways, for a period of sixty days. A motorcycle
 28 instruction permit may be renewed, or a new permit issued, for an
 29 additional period of sixty days. Each applicant issued a motorcycle
 30 instruction permit shall, while operating a motorcycle, wear protective
 31 headgear [of a type which conforms to the minimum specifications
 32 established by regulations adopted under subsection (b) of] as required
 33 by section 14-289g, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-289g
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-40a(b)

TRA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Less than 2,000	Less than 2,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases helmet requirements on motorcycles from age 18 to 21 and results in potential minimal revenue gain from fines. In FY 18, eight offenses resulted in fine revenue totaling \$1,006.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6161*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF HELMETS BY MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS AND PASSENGERS UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill increases, from age 18 to age 21, the age under which a person must wear a helmet while operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, helmets must meet the minimum specifications established by federal regulations. Failure to wear a helmet is an infraction punishable by a fine of at least \$90.

By law, autocycles and electric bicycles are not considered motorcycles or motor-driven cycles for purposes of the helmet requirements. "Motor-driven cycle" means a motorcycle, motor scooter, or bicycle with attached motor, with a seat at least 26 inches high, and a motor displacing fewer than 50 cubic centimeters (CGS § 14-1(57)).

The bill also makes technical changes, including eliminating an obsolete reference to Department of Motor Vehicles regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 6 (03/20/2019)