

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0601.01 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 26-1079

---

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bradley and Boesenecker,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bright,

---

House Committees

Transportation, Housing & Local Government

Senate Committees

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT A MINOR HAVE WRITTEN  
102 PERMISSION TO OBTAIN AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT TO DRIVE A  
103 MOTORCYCLE.

---

Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires a minor to have written permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian to obtain an instruction permit to drive a motorcycle. The bill does not apply to foster children or emancipated minors.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4           (a) Motorcycles inherently provide significantly less occupant  
5 protection than passenger motor vehicles, leaving operators and  
6 passengers fully exposed to impact forces in the event of a crash, loss of  
7 control, or roadway hazard;

8           (b) In 2024, the state of Colorado recorded 165 motorcycle  
9 fatalities, which is the highest number of motorcycle deaths in state  
10 history and represents a 57% increase since 2015;

11           (c) In 2024, motorcycle fatalities accounted for approximately  
12 24% of all traffic fatalities in Colorado, despite motorcycles comprising  
13 only approximately 3% of registered vehicles statewide, demonstrating  
14 a disproportionate risk of death associated with motorcycle operation;

15           (d) State crash data for 2024 indicate that approximately 80% of  
16 motorcycle crashes resulted in injury, with injuries frequently involving  
17 traumatic brain injury, spinal trauma, or permanent disability;

18           (e) Minors are particularly vulnerable to motorcycle-related  
19 injuries and fatalities due to ongoing physical, neurological, and cognitive  
20 development, including limitations in hazard recognition, risk assessment,  
21 judgment, and reaction time;

22           (f) Colorado law currently recognizes the heightened vulnerability  
23 of minors by requiring helmet use for motorcycle operators and  
24 passengers under 18 years old; however, protective equipment alone does  
25 not sufficiently mitigate the inherent risks of motorcycle operation by  
26 minors;

1 (g) A substantial number of motorcycle fatalities in Colorado  
2 involve riders not wearing helmets, and, even when helmets are worn,  
3 minors remain at elevated risk due to the absence of structural protections  
4 on motorcycles;

5 (h) Colorado's high-speed roadways, mountainous terrain, variable  
6 weather conditions, and increasing traffic congestion further increase the  
7 dangers associated with motorcycle operation, particularly for young and  
8 inexperienced riders;

9 (i) Permitting minors to obtain motorcycle endorsements or  
10 operate motorcycles based solely on consent from any individual over 21  
11 years old does not adequately ensure responsible oversight, informed  
12 decision-making, or appropriate evaluation of a minor's readiness to  
13 safely operate a motorcycle;

14 (j) Requiring parental or legal guardian consent:

15 (I) Provides a higher level of accountability;

16 (II) Aligns motorcycle endorsement requirements with Colorado's  
17 existing youth safety frameworks; and

18 (III) Helps ensure that minors receive appropriate training,  
19 supervision, and assessment prior to operating motorcycles on public  
20 roadways;

21 (k) Motorcycle-related injuries and fatalities involving minors  
22 impose significant emotional and financial burdens on families and  
23 substantial costs to the state through emergency medical response,  
24 long-term medical care, rehabilitation, and disability support services; and

25 (l) The state of Colorado has a compelling interest in protecting  
26 the health, safety, and welfare of minors and, in high-risk activities, has  
27 long exercised its authority to impose age-based safety requirements,

1 including graduated driver licensing systems and child passenger safety  
2 laws.

3 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is necessary  
4 and appropriate to enact legislation regulating motorcycle operation and  
5 endorsement eligibility involving minors, including consent and training  
6 requirements, in order to protect Colorado's youth.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-2-106 **as it will**  
8 **become effective April 1, 2026, add (1)(f) as follows:**

9 **42-2-106. Instruction permits and temporary licenses -**  
10 **penalty.**

11 (1) (f) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION,  
12 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT ISSUE AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT TO A MINOR  
13 WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD TO DRIVE A MOTORCYCLE UNLESS  
14 THE MINOR HAS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE MINOR'S PARENT OR LEGAL  
15 GUARDIAN TO DRIVE A MOTORCYCLE. THE WRITTEN PERMISSION  
16 REQUIREMENT IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(f) DOES NOT APPLY TO:

17 (I) A FOSTER CHILD; OR

18 (II) AN EMANCIPATED MINOR.

19 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
20 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following  
21 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the  
22 general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13,  
23 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1  
24 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section,  
25 or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part  
26 will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election  
27 to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the

- 1 date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.
- 2 (2) This act applies to applications for instruction permits
- 3 submitted on or after the applicable effective date of this act.