

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5397

As of January 26, 1999

Title: An act relating to motorcycle endorsements and instruction permits.

Brief Description: Eliminating categories of motorcycle endorsement.

Sponsors: Senators Benton, T. Sheldon and Costa; by request of Department of Licensing.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/26/99.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7305)

Background: In order to drive a motorcycle on Washington highways, a person must first hold a valid driver's license and then obtain one of three types of motorcycle endorsements. The different types of special motorcycle endorsements are determined by the engine displacement (or size) of the motorcycle. In order to obtain the endorsement, a driver must pass a motorcycle endorsement examination conducted by the Department of Licensing (DOL). Under current law, there are two ways to prepare for that examination: (1) a DOL sponsored motorcycle training class; (2) a restricted motorcycle learner's permit that requires the learner to be under the visual supervision of an experienced motorcyclist.

Summary of Bill: A motorcycle endorsement authorizes the holder to operate any size motorcycle. Those motorcyclists holding a motorcycle learner's permit are allowed to drive on a controlled, limited access facility, and without visual supervision.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 25, 1999.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.