

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION

S.F. No. 4417

(SENATE AUTHORS: WIGER)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/16/2020	5565	Introduction and first reading Referred to Transportation Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to motor vehicles; amending driver's license examination procedures for

1.3 individuals with seizure disorders; allowing a person without a driver's license to

1.4 operate off-road vehicles on roads; authorizing rulemaking; amending Minnesota

1.5 Statutes 2018, sections 169.223, subdivision 2; 171.13, by adding a subdivision;

1.6 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 84; repealing

1.7 Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 171.02, subdivision 3.

1.8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.9 Section 1. **[84.765] CROSSING ROADS; DRIVER'S LICENSE EXCEPTION.**

1.10 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person 16 years of age or older that is

1.11 operating an off-highway vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, off-road vehicle, snowmobile,

1.12 or all-terrain vehicle is not required to have a driver's license to cross over a public road or

1.13 public road right-of-way. This section applies outside of the metropolitan area as defined

1.14 in section 473.121, subdivision 2.

1.15 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 169.223, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.16 Subd. 2. **License or permit.** (a) A motorized bicycle may be operated ~~under either a~~

1.17 ~~driver's license or a motorized bicycle permit issued under section 171.02, subdivision 3~~

1.18 by any person 15 years of age or older and who has successfully completed an approved

1.19 safety course and passed the written portion of the examination prescribed by the

1.20 commissioner.

1.21 (b) A person under the age of 16 operating a motorized bicycle ~~under a motorized bicycle~~

1.22 ~~permit~~ is subject to the restrictions imposed by section 169.974, subdivision 2, on operation

1.23 of a motorcycle under a two-wheel instruction permit, except that:

2.1 (1) a parent or guardian of an operator under the age of 16 may also ride on the motorized
 2.2 bicycle as a passenger or operator if the motorized bicycle is equipped with a seat and
 2.3 footrests for a second passenger;

2.4 (2) a motorized bicycle equipped with a headlight and taillight meeting the requirements
 2.5 of lighting for motorcycles may be operated during nighttime hours;

2.6 (3) protective headgear includes headgear described in subdivision 1; and

2.7 (4) protective headgear is required only until the operator reaches the age of 18 years.

2.8 (c) The safety course required by paragraph (a) must consist of but is not limited to a
 2.9 basic understanding of:

2.10 (1) motorized bicycles and their limitations;

2.11 (2) motorized bicycle laws and rules;

2.12 (3) safe operating practices and basic operating techniques;

2.13 (4) helmets and protective clothing;

2.14 (5) motorized bicycle traffic strategies; and

2.15 (6) effects of alcohol and drugs on motorized bicycle operators.

2.16 (d) The commissioner may adopt rules prescribing the content of the safety course and
 2.17 the written examination.

2.18 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 171.13, is amended by adding a subdivision to
 2.19 read:

2.20 Subd. 3a. **Seizure disorders.** (a) A person with a seizure disorder is not subject to
 2.21 examination as provided in subdivision 3, if the applicant:

2.22 (1) has not sustained a seizure involving a loss of consciousness in the waking state
 2.23 within six months preceding the application; and

2.24 (2) can demonstrate the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle by:

2.25 (i) submitting a certification signed by a person licensed to practice medicine in this
 2.26 state stating that the applicant's seizures are controlled; or

2.27 (ii) demonstrating the ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation
 2.28 of a motor vehicle by completing a road test and demonstrating a safe driving history to the
 2.29 satisfaction of the commissioner.

3.1 (b) The commissioner must not require a person with a seizure disorder to take medication
3.2 as a requirement for obtaining a driver's license.

3.3 (c) A person with a seizure disorder, who is refused a driver's license or whose license
3.4 is canceled pursuant to subdivision 3, may file a petition to have the decision reviewed
3.5 pursuant to section 171.19.

3.6 Sec. 4. **RULEMAKING.**

3.7 (a) The commissioner of public safety may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of
3.8 this act.

3.9 (b) The commissioner of public safety must amend Minnesota Rules, part 7410.2500,
3.10 to comply with the requirements of this act.

3.11 Sec. 5. **REPEALER.**

3.12 Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 171.02, subdivision 3, is repealed.

171.02 LICENSES; TYPES, ENDORSEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS.

Subd. 3. **Motorized bicycle.** (a) A motorized bicycle may not be operated on any public roadway by any person who does not possess a valid driver's license, unless the person has obtained a motorized bicycle operator's permit or motorized bicycle instruction permit from the commissioner of public safety. The operator's permit may be issued to any person who has attained the age of 15 years and who has passed the examination prescribed by the commissioner. The instruction permit may be issued to any person who has attained the age of 15 years and who has successfully completed an approved safety course and passed the written portion of the examination prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) This course must consist of, but is not limited to, a basic understanding of:

- (1) motorized bicycles and their limitations;
- (2) motorized bicycle laws and rules;
- (3) safe operating practices and basic operating techniques;
- (4) helmets and protective clothing;
- (5) motorized bicycle traffic strategies; and
- (6) effects of alcohol and drugs on motorized bicycle operators.

(c) The commissioner may adopt rules prescribing the content of the safety course, examination, and the information to be contained on the permits. A person operating a motorized bicycle under a motorized bicycle permit is subject to the restrictions imposed by section 169.974, subdivision 2, on operation of a motorcycle under a two-wheel instruction permit.

(d) The fees for motorized bicycle operator's permits are as follows:

(1) Motorized bicycle operator's permit before age 21 and valid until age 21	\$	9.75
(2) Renewal permit age 21 or older and valid for four years	\$	15.75
(3) Duplicate of any renewal permit	\$	5.25
(4) Written examination and instruction permit, valid for 30 days	\$	6.75