

Senate Bill 275

By: Senator Rogers of the 21st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the issuance, expiration, and renewal of drivers' licenses, so as to provide that  
3 persons applying for Class M licenses shall complete a motorcycle safety training course; to  
4 provide that the Georgia Department of Driver Services shall promulgate regulations  
5 establishing criteria for such courses; to provide that the department shall approve persons  
6 to conduct such training; to provide for related matters; to provide for applicability; to  
7 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
11 issuance, expiration, and renewal of drivers' licenses, is amended by adding a new subsection  
12 to Code Section 40-5-22, relating minimum requirements for issuance of drivers' licenses,  
13 to read as follows:

14 "(a.3)(1) On or after July 1, 2011, the department shall not issue any initial Class M  
15 driver's license to a person unless such person:

16 (A) Is at least 17 years of age and has completed an approved motorcycle operator  
17 safety training course in a licensed private or public driver training school and provides  
18 evidence satisfactory to the department that the applicant has successfully completed  
19 such course; or

20 (B) Is at least 26 years of age.

21 (2) The commissioner shall by rule or regulation establish standards for approval of any  
22 motorcycle safety training course for purposes of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of  
23 this subsection, provided that such courses shall be designed to educate young drivers  
24 about safe driving practices and the safe operation of motorcycles and shall at a minimum  
25 provide training based on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Course or its

26 equivalent in quality, utility, and merit and shall be instructed by a person who meets the  
 27 requirements of Code Section 40-15-5.  
 28 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a person under  
 29 the age of 26 who becomes a resident of this state and who has in his or her immediate  
 30 possession a valid license to operate a motorcycle that was issued to him or her in another  
 31 state or country shall not be required to take or complete a motorcycle operator safety  
 32 training course."

33 **SECTION 2.**

34 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 40-5-24 of the  
 35 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to instruction permits, graduated licensing and  
 36 related restrictions, and temporary licenses, as follows:

37 "(c) Any resident of this state who is at least 17 years of age may apply to the department  
 38 for a noncommercial Class M motorcycle instruction permit. The department shall, after  
 39 the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the examination other than the driving test  
 40 and has completed an approved motorcycle operator safety training course, issue to the  
 41 applicant an instruction permit which shall entitle the applicant, while having such permit  
 42 in his or her immediate possession, to drive a motorcycle or a motor driven cycle upon the  
 43 public highways for a period of six months; provided, however, that a person who is at  
 44 least 16 years of age and meets all of the other qualifications of this subsection except for  
 45 age who has completed an approved driver education training course as provided in  
 46 subsection (a.2) of Code Section 40-5-22 may apply for a Class M motorcycle instruction  
 47 permit. A motorcycle instruction permit shall not be valid when carrying passengers, on  
 48 a limited access highway, or at night."

49 **SECTION 3.**

50 The provisions of this Act shall not apply to or otherwise affect any valid license or  
 51 instructional permit which has been issued to any person by this state and which is in effect  
 52 on the effective date of this Act.

53 **SECTION 4.**

54 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2011.

55 **SECTION 5.**

56 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.