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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTORCYCLE INSTRUCTION PERMITS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to:

(1) Require, starting on July 1, 2026, that applicants for a motorcycle instruction permit successfully complete a basic motorcycle rider course approved by the department of transportation before becoming eligible for the permit; and

(2) Exempt drivers of motorcycles, motor scooters, or mopeds on an enclosed training course that has been certified by the State from driving restrictions for training purposes.

SECTION 2. Section 286-110, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**"§286-110 Instruction permits.** (a) Any person aged fifteen years and six months or more who, except for the person's lack of instruction in operating a motor vehicle, would be qualified to obtain a driver's license issued under this part may apply for a temporary instruction permit or a limited



1 purpose instruction permit at the office of the examiner of  
2 drivers in the county in which the applicant resides; provided  
3 that the applicant complies with section 286-102.5.

4 (b) No person shall be issued a motorcycle instruction  
5 permit unless the person successfully completes a basic  
6 motorcycle rider course approved by the department of  
7 transportation.

8 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The examiner of drivers shall examine every  
9 applicant for an instruction permit. The examination shall  
10 include tests of the applicant's:

11 (1) Eyesight and other physical or mental capabilities to  
12 determine if the applicant is capable of operating a  
13 motor vehicle;

14 (2) Understanding of highway signs regulating, warning,  
15 and directing traffic; and

16 (3) Knowledge of the traffic laws, ordinances, or  
17 regulations of the State and the county where the  
18 applicant resides or intends to operate a motor  
19 vehicle.

20 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) If the examiner of drivers is satisfied that the  
21 applicant is qualified to receive an instruction permit, the



1 examiner of drivers shall issue the permit entitling the  
2 applicant, while having the permit in the applicant's immediate  
3 possession, to drive a motor vehicle upon the highways for a  
4 period of one year; provided that:

5 (1) An applicant who is registered in a driver training  
6 course shall be issued a temporary instruction permit  
7 for the duration of the course and the termination  
8 date of the course shall be entered on the permit; and

9 (2) If the applicant is a legal immigrant, the permit  
10 shall expire no later than the applicant's authorized  
11 period of stay in the United States.

12 A person who is not licensed to operate the category of  
13 motor vehicles to which the driving training course applies  
14 shall not operate a motor vehicle in connection with the driving  
15 training course without a valid temporary instruction permit  
16 unless the person is operating a motorcycle, motor scooter, or  
17 moped as defined in section 286-2 that is being used for  
18 training purposes on an enclosed training course that has been  
19 certified by the State.

20 [~~(d)~~] (e) Except when operating a motor scooter or  
21 motorcycle, the holder of an instruction permit shall be



1 accompanied by a person who is twenty-one years of age or older  
2 and licensed to operate the category of motor vehicles in which  
3 the motor vehicle that is being operated belongs. The licensed  
4 person shall occupy a passenger seat beside the permit holder  
5 while the motor vehicle is being operated; provided that if the  
6 holder of the instruction permit is under the age of eighteen  
7 years and is driving between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00  
8 a.m.:

9 (1) A licensed driver who is the permit holder's parent or  
10 guardian shall occupy a passenger seat beside the  
11 driver while the motor vehicle is operated, unless the  
12 permit holder is an emancipated minor;

13 (2) The licensed driver shall be licensed to operate the  
14 same category of motor vehicles as the motor vehicle  
15 being operated by the holder of the instruction  
16 permit; and

17 (3) All occupants of the motor vehicle shall be restrained  
18 by a seat belt assembly or a child passenger safety  
19 restraint system as required under sections 291-11.5  
20 and 291-11.6, notwithstanding any other law to the  
21 contrary.



1       ~~[(e)]~~ (f) No holder of a temporary instruction permit  
2 shall operate a motorcycle or a motor scooter during hours of  
3 darkness or carry any passengers.

4       ~~[(f)]~~ (g) No holder of a category 1 or 2 temporary  
5 instruction permit shall have the permit renewed, nor shall the  
6 holder be issued another temporary instruction permit for the  
7 same purpose, unless the holder has taken the examination for a  
8 category 1 or 2 license at least once prior to the expiration of  
9 the temporary instruction permit. If the holder of a temporary  
10 instruction permit fails to meet the requirements of this  
11 section, the holder shall not be permitted to apply for another  
12 category 1 or 2 temporary instruction permit for a period of  
13 three months. Nothing in this subsection shall affect the right  
14 and privilege of any holder of a category 1 or 2 temporary  
15 instruction permit to obtain a temporary instruction permit or  
16 driver's license for the operation of any other type of motor  
17 vehicle.

18       ~~[(g)]~~ (h) The examiner of drivers may accept an  
19 application for renewal of an instruction permit no more than  
20 thirty days prior to or ninety days after the expiration date of  
21 the instruction permit, whereupon the applicant for renewal of



1 an instruction permit shall be exempt from subsection [~~(b)(2)~~  
2 ~~and (3)~~]. (c)(2) and (3). If an application for renewal of an  
3 instruction permit is not made within ninety days after the  
4 expiration date of the permit, the applicant shall be treated as  
5 applying for a new instruction permit and examined in accordance  
6 with subsection [~~(b)~~] (c).

7 [~~(b)~~] (i) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,  
8 the examiner of drivers may issue an instruction permit to an  
9 applicant with a disability who has completed a medical review  
10 with this State, and as a condition to licensure is required to  
11 pass a road test, but has failed the road test on the  
12 applicant's first attempt. The instruction permit issued under  
13 this subsection may be renewed no more than thirty days prior to  
14 or ninety days after the expiration date of the instruction  
15 permit upon receiving an updated medical report. Subsections  
16 [~~(b)(2) and (3)~~] (c)(2) and (3) shall not apply to the issuance  
17 or renewal of an instruction permit issued under this  
18 subsection.

19 For the purposes of this subsection, "applicant with a  
20 disability" means an applicant who the examiner of drivers has  
21 reasonable cause to believe may have a mental or physical



1 infirmity or disability that would make it unsafe to operate a  
2 motor vehicle pursuant to section 286-119(a)(1) and has been  
3 medically evaluated by the medical advisory board established  
4 pursuant to section 286-4.1."

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall not apply to applicants who  
6 submit applications for a motorcycle instruction permit before  
7 its effective date.

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DOT; Motorcycle Instruction Permits; Basic Motorcycle Rider Course

**Description:**

Starting on July 1, 2026, requires all applicants for a motorcycle instruction permit to successfully complete a basic motorcycle rider course approved by the Department of Transportation before becoming eligible for the permit. Designates exemptions for certain drivers on an enclosed training course. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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