

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 17
RELATING TO MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT**

January 29, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is providing written testimony in support of Senate Bill 17. This proposed legislation removes the temporary permit exemption currently allowed for any person to operate a motorcycle without a M endorsement.

Under current state law, any person can operate a motorcycle without a M endorsement on their license if the motorcycle is registered under a temporary permit status.

According to KDOT crash statistics 2013 to 2017:

Motorcycle Operators that don't have a M Endorsement are involved in:

- 48 percent of all crashes involving a motorcycle.
- 50 percent of all fatal crashes involving a motorcycle.

Automobile Operators (Autos, Trucks, SUV's and Vans) that don't have a valid license are involved in:

- 5 percent of crashes
- 10 percent of fatal crashes

State law allows anyone, 14 years or older to pass a written examination and obtain a learner's permit motorcycle endorsement. This allows the operator to gain experience riding a motorcycle alongside an experienced endorsed operator for one year. Another avenue available to those seeking the M endorsement is to pass a written examination and pass a driving test with the Department of Motor Vehicles or a state certified rider course.

Currently, any operator in violation of the M endorsement license can be charged with a Class B Misdemeanor and receive a fine of up to \$1000, K.S.A. 8-235. This proposed change is designed to eliminate the current exemption for obtaining a M endorsement, educate the potential motorcycle operator on the importance of taking the time to complete the state required training, understand the differences in operating a motorcycle versus a passenger vehicle and ultimately reduce motorcycle crashes and fatalities.

Motorcycle operators without a valid M endorsement are over represented in motorcycle crashes and fatalities. This legislation will remove the opportunity for an unendorsed and inexperienced operator to

simply purchase a motorcycle and operate the motorcycle on public roadways without proper education. This type of grace period is not allowed for someone who purchases a motor vehicle and then operates on a public road. Increasing the number of educated and properly licensed drivers and operators on the road is in line with our goals of reducing death and injury on Kansas roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 17.