**South Carolina General Assembly**

122nd Session, 2017-2018

**A127, R131, S456**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Grooms and Shealy

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Introduced in the Senate on February 22, 2017

Introduced in the House on March 13, 2017

Passed by the General Assembly on January 11, 2018

Governor's Action: February 5, 2018, Signed

Summary: Motorcycle Beginner's permits

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/22/2017 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 3](file:///h:\sj\20170222.docx))

2/22/2017 Senate Referred to Committee on **Transportation** ([Senate Journal‑page 3](file:///h:\sj\20170222.docx))

3/2/2017 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Transportation** ([Senate Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\sj\20170302.docx))

3/8/2017 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 36](file:///h:\sj\20170308.docx))

3/8/2017 Senate Roll call Ayes‑39 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 36](file:///h:\sj\20170308.docx))

3/9/2017 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 21](file:///h:\sj\20170309.docx))

3/13/2017 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\hj\20170313.docx))

3/13/2017 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\hj\20170313.docx))

5/10/2017 House Recalled from Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 75](file:///h:\hj\20170510.docx))

5/11/2017 House Debate adjourned until Tues., 1‑9‑18

1/10/2018 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 9](file:///h:\hj\20180110.docx))

1/10/2018 House Roll call Yeas‑106 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\hj\20180110.docx))

1/11/2018 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 600](file:///h:\hj\20180111.docx))

2/1/2018 Ratified R 131

2/5/2018 Signed By Governor

2/8/2018 Effective date 2/5/18

2/12/2018 Act No. 127

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=456&session=122&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/22/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\456_20170222.docx)

[3/2/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\456_20170302.docx)

[5/10/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\456_20170510.docx)

(A127, R131, S456)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 56‑1‑50, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO BEGINNER’S PERMITS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO HOLDS A MOTORCYCLE BEGINNER’S PERMIT WHO HAS FAILED THE MOTORCYCLE DRIVER’S LICENSE TEST THREE OR MORE TIMES MUST COMPLETE SUCCESSFULLY A SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSE, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, IN LIEU OF PASSING THE MOTORCYCLE DRIVER’S LICENSE TEST, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A MOTORCYCLE LICENSE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 56‑1‑770, RELATING TO POINTS REDUCED FOR COMPLETING A DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ANY DRIVER WITH A CLASS M (MOTORCYCLE) ENDORSEMENT WHO HAS ACCUMULATED POINTS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL HAVE THE NUMBER OF HIS POINTS REDUCED BY FOUR UPON PROVING TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES THAT HE HAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY A SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSE OR ITS EQUIVALENT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE COURSE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT NO PERSON’S POINTS MAY BE REDUCED MORE THAN ONE TIME IN ANY THREE‑YEAR PERIOD.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Beginners’ permits**

SECTION 1. Section 56‑1‑50 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 89 of 2017, is further amended by adding an appropriately lettered new subsection to read:

“( ) A person who holds a motorcycle beginner’s permit who has failed the motorcycle driver’s license test three or more times must successfully complete a South Carolina technical college motorcycle safety course, or its equivalent, in lieu of passing the motorcycle driver’s license test, in order to obtain a motorcycle license. All courses must be at least eight hours in length and be taught by an instructor accredited through a training program in which the procedures for accreditation are equivalent to those set forth in ‘Manual of Rules and Procedures’ published by the National Safety Council. All courses must include successful completion of an examination equivalent to the Department of Motor Vehicles motorcycle skills test. These programs are subject to Section 56‑1‑15.”

**Defensive driving course**

SECTION 2. Section 56‑1‑770 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑770. (A) Any driver who has accumulated points under the provisions of this article shall have the number of his points reduced by four upon proving to the satisfaction of the Department of Motor Vehicles that he has completed the National Safety Council’s ‘Defensive Driving Course’ or its equivalent, if the course is completed after the points have been assessed. The course must be taught by an instructor accredited by the National Safety Council whose procedures for accreditation are set forth in the ‘Manual of Rules and Procedures’ published by the National Safety Council or equivalent accreditation procedures. The department shall establish procedures by which driver training schools may apply to the department for approval of a defensive driving course which will qualify those successfully completing the course for a reduction in points pursuant to this section. The department shall approve the National Safety Council’s ‘Defensive Driving Course’ or its equivalent when offered by driver training schools and taught by an instructor accredited by the National Safety Council or equivalent accreditation procedures.

(B) Any driver with a Class M (motorcycle) endorsement who has accumulated points under the provisions of this article shall have the number of his points reduced by four upon proving to the satisfaction of the Department of Motor Vehicles that he has successfully completed a South Carolina technical college motorcycle safety course or its equivalent. All courses offered for point reduction must be at least eight hours in length and be taught by an instructor accredited through a training program in which the procedures for accreditation are equivalent to those set forth in ‘Manual of Rules and Procedures’ published by the National Safety Council.

(C) No person’s points may be reduced more than one time in any three‑year period, pursuant to the provisions contained in this section.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 1st day of February, 2018.

Approved the5th day of February, 2018.

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