



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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*This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.*

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**Bill Number:** H. 4673    Introduced on January 9, 2024  
**Author:** Erickson  
**Subject:** Beginner's Permits  
**Requestor:** House Education and Public Works  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Griffith  
**Impact Date:** January 19, 2024

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill specifies that a person is not required to obtain a beginner's permit to operate a motor vehicle if the person has satisfied the beginner's permit requirements set forth in law or with sufficient previous driving experience that exempts the person from the beginner's permit requirements when performing the driving test with a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) employee. Additionally, a person obtaining solely a moped operator's license pursuant to Section 56-1-1720 is not required to hold a beginner's permit before operating a moped. Further, the bill allows a person who is eighteen years old or older to attempt the driving test to obtain a regular motor vehicle driver's license after maintaining a beginner's permit for at least thirty days.

DMV indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency since any expenses to implement the bill can be managed with existing staff and current appropriations. However, while the change in the timing required before a person who is eighteen years old or older may apply for a regular driver's license will not affect total revenue that is allocated to Other Funds of the Department of Transportation (DOT), it could have an undetermined impact on the timing of the revenue.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 9, 2024**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill specifies that a person is not required to obtain a beginner's permit to operate a motor vehicle if the person has satisfied the beginner's permit requirements set forth in law or with sufficient previous driving experience that exempts the person from the beginner's permit requirements when performing the driving test with a DMV employee. Additionally, a person obtaining solely a moped operator's license pursuant to Section 56-1-1720 is not required to hold a beginner's permit before operating a moped. Further, the bill allows a person who is eighteen years old or older to attempt the driving test to obtain a regular motor vehicle driver's license after maintaining a beginner's permit for at least thirty days. This does not apply to motorcycle permits or permits for vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more. DMV indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency since any expenses can be managed with existing staff and current appropriations.

**State Revenue**

The change in the timing required for a person who is eighteen years old or older to obtain a regular motor vehicle driver's license after holding a beginner's permit may affect the timing of revenue generated from license fees. For reference, the cost of a four-year-or-less license is \$12.50, and the cost for a traditional eight-year license is \$25. The revenue from these licenses is allocated to the State Non-Federal Aid Highway Fund, which is Other Funds of DOT. DMV reports that approximately thirty-three percent of beginner's permits issued over the past two fiscal years were issued to citizens aged eighteen or older. However, the number of citizens to which this will apply in the future cannot be estimated. Therefore, while the bill will not affect total revenue that is allocated to Other Funds of DOT for license fees, it could have an undetermined effect on timing of the revenue.

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director