



To: House Transportation Committee
From: Travis Lowe; AAA Kansas
March 6, 2019
Re: Support of SB 17

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

I am Travis Lowe appearing on behalf of AAA Kansas. Since AAA's founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying organization has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA serves over 344,000 Kansans. On behalf of AAA, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer support for legislation that will improve road safety for motorcycle drivers and other auto drivers, as well.

Senate Bill 17 ensures that any person driving a motorcycle on Kansas roads must have a Class M driver's license or learners permit. Last month, SB 17 passed the Senate 40-0. There were no opponents in the Senate Transportation Committee hearing.

In Kansas, state law requires drivers of motorcycles to have a Class M driver's license or Class M learners permit. However, there is an exception for someone who purchases a motorcycle, which allows the driver to not be required to have a Class M driver's license or learners permit for the first 60 days. This means if there is a motorcycle on the road with paper temporary 60-day license plates, the driver is NOT required to have a Class M driver's license or Class M learners permit.

No similar exemption like this exists for other vehicles. State law does not allow someone to drive a car without a license or learners permit just because they purchased the car within 60 days.

SB 17 simply closes this loophole to state that all motorcycle drivers on the road must have Class M driver's license or Class M learners permit, regardless of the motorcycle having temporary tags.

AAA and related stakeholders believe there is a problem in Kansas with motorcycle training. According to KDOT, 48% of Kansas motorcycle crashes involved drivers that did not have a valid Class M driver's license or learners permit in 2015-2018. 51% of Kansas motorcycle fatalities did not have a valid Class M driver's license or learners permit.

There is no known fiscal impact for the passage of this bill. The bill does not impact the sellers of motorcycles, regardless if they are public or private. It simply ensures that motorcycle drivers, regardless of when they purchase their motorcycle, have the proper training to operate and drive.

We respectfully urge your strong support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this matter.

Travis Lowe