



**DATE:** February 6, 2017

**TO:** Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

**FROM:** Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison

**SUBJECT:** SB 36, Driver License issuance efficiency

## **INTRODUCTION**

Senate Bill 36 authorizes Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV) to waive the skills test for individuals seeking an endorsement to operate three-wheeled motorcycles. The bill also eliminates the requirement to submit certain information on an application for a driver license.

### **Three-wheel motorcycle testing**

#### ***Background***

Oregon law defines motorcycles to include both two-wheel and three-wheel vehicles. A standard motorcycle endorsement allows a person to operate a two-wheel or three-wheel motorcycle. A restricted endorsement allows a person to only operate a three-wheel motorcycle.

Oregon law requires all operators of two-wheeled motorcycles to complete a training course through TEAM Oregon, which includes passing a skills test. Applicants for a restricted endorsement – operators of three-wheeled motorcycles only – are excluded from the statutory training requirement. TEAM Oregon does not offer training specific to three-wheel motorcycles. Currently, Oregon law requires DMV applicants for a three-wheeled restricted motorcycle endorsement to complete a skills test, as well as pass a motorcycle knowledge test. DMV conducts approximately 45 such skills tests each year. Because of the low level of use, only five DMV offices around the state provide skills tests for this endorsement.

Two-wheeled motorcycles operate by counter-steering, and operators therefore need to develop and demonstrate that particular skill. However, three-wheeled motorcycles do not counter-steer but rather steer like an automobile. Because a person must already have an underlying Class C driver license prior to getting any endorsement, the person has already been tested on knowledge and skills for operating on the road.

Additionally, it is difficult for customers to reach a testing office, because so few offices can offer it.

#### ***What This Bill Does***

This bill eliminates the requirement that DMV conduct a skills test prior to issuance of a restricted three-wheel motorcycle endorsement. Individuals applying for the three-wheel motorcycle endorsement would still take the motorcycle knowledge test.

## **Application test questions**

### ***Background***

Currently, statute requires an applicant for a driver license or permit to indicate whether they were ever issued a driver license or driver permit in any jurisdiction. If so, they must indicate when the license or permit was issued, which jurisdiction(s) issued the license or permit, whether the license or permit has ever been suspended or revoked, and the reason for the suspension or revocation. At every license issuance and renewal, DMV checks a national database used by all states that shows if a person's driving privileges are currently suspended or revoked elsewhere.

### ***What This Bill Does***

This bill eliminates the requirement for a driver license applicant to provide information about every other driving privilege the person has held in any other jurisdiction. At each issuance and renewal of a driver license or permit, DMV conducts electronic checks of its own records and other states' records to determine if the person has driving privileges suspended or revoked in any other jurisdiction. This data is immediately available electronically at the time of the application, and the multiple questions on the application are unnecessary and confusing to customers.

### **SUMMARY**

Senate Bill 36 will allow DMV to gain efficiencies in the driver license issuance process. Eliminating the need to conduct skills tests for the handful of individuals who request a restricted three-wheel motorcycle endorsement will save DMV the time and resources required to maintain staff training and the test courses. Three-wheel motorcycles operate similarly to an automobile, and the customers who apply for this endorsement already have a Class C driver license, so public safety is not expected to be compromised.

Additionally, removing questions about past issuances from applications for driver licenses and permits will save both customers and DMV time and avoid unnecessary confusion. The suspension information is accessed electronically at the time an application is submitted. This source of information is much more reliable than what may be provided by a customer.

DMV will realize savings in operating costs and improvements in licensing efficiency with passage of SB 36.