S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

7138

I N S E N A T E

May 1, 2012

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to requirements for licensing

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivision 4 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new paragraph (c-3) to read as follows:

(C-3) "MOTORCYCLE SAFETY" AWARENESS COMPONENT. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE IN THE PRE-LICENSING COURSE, SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, A MANDATORY COMPONENT IN "MOTORCYCLE SAFETY" AWARENESS EDUCATION AS A PREREQUISITE FOR OBTAINING A LICENSE TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMPONENT IS TO EDUCATE PROSPECTIVE LICENSEES ON THE POTENTIAL DANGERS TO PERSONS OPERATING MOTORCYCLES ON THE ROADWAY.

S 2. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 458 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(i) Upon submission of an application for a driver's license, the applicant shall be required to take and pass a test, or submit evidence of passage of a test, with respect to the laws relating to traffic, the laws relating to driving while ability is impaired and while intoxicated, under the overpowering influence of "Road Rage", [or] "Work Zone Safety" awareness AND "MOTORCYCLE SAFETY" AWARENESS as defined by the commissioner, the law relating to exercising due care to avoid colliding with a parked, stopped or standing authorized emergency vehicle or hazard vehicle pursuant to section eleven hundred forty-four-a of this chapter, the ability to read and comprehend traffic signs and symbols and such other matters as the commissioner may prescribe, and to satisfactorily complete a course prescribed by the commissioner of not less than four hours and not more than five hours, consisting of classroom driver training and highway safety instruction or the equivalent thereof. Such test shall include at least seven written questions concerning the effects of consumption of alcohol or drugs on the ability of a

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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person to operate a motor vehicle and the legal and financial consequences resulting from violations of section eleven hundred ninety-two of this chapter, prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Such test shall include one or more written questions concerning the devastating effects of "Road Rage" on the ability of a person to operate a motor vehicle and the legal and financial consequences resulting from assaulting, threatening or interfering with the lawful conduct of another person legally using the roadway. Such test shall include one or more questions concerning the potential dangers to persons and equipment resulting from the unsafe operation of a motor vehicle in a work zone. SUCH TEST SHALL INCLUDE ONE OR MORE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL DANGERS TO PERSONS OPERATING MOTORCYCLES ON THE ROAD. Such test may include one or more questions concerning the law for exercising due care to avoid colliding with a parked, stopped or standing authorized emergency vehicle or hazard vehicle pursuant to section eleven hundred forty-four-a of this chapter. Such test shall be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner shall cause the applicant to take a vision test and a test for color blindness. Upon passage of the vision test, the application may be accepted and the application fee shall be payable.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.