

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REREVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0601.01 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 26-1079

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT A MINOR HAVE WRITTEN**
102 **PERMISSION TO OBTAIN AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT TO DRIVE A**
103 **MOTORCYCLE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires a minor to have written permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian to obtain an instruction permit to drive a motorcycle. The bill does not apply to foster children or emancipated minors.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 7, 2026

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 6, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 3rd Reading
March 13, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 12, 2026

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the "Cole
3 Bradley Act".

4 **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 finds and declares that:

6 (a) Motorcycles inherently provide significantly less occupant
7 protection than passenger motor vehicles, leaving operators and
8 passengers fully exposed to impact forces in the event of a crash, loss of
9 control, or roadway hazard;

10 (b) In 2024, the state of Colorado recorded 165 motorcycle
11 fatalities, which is the highest number of motorcycle deaths in state
12 history and represents a 57% increase since 2015;

13 (c) In 2024, motorcycle fatalities accounted for approximately
14 24% of all traffic fatalities in Colorado, despite motorcycles comprising
15 only approximately 3% of registered vehicles statewide, demonstrating
16 a disproportionate risk of death associated with motorcycle operation;

17 (d) State crash data for 2024 indicate that approximately 80% of
18 motorcycle crashes resulted in injury, with injuries frequently involving
19 traumatic brain injury, spinal trauma, or permanent disability;

20 (e) Minors are particularly vulnerable to motorcycle-related
21 injuries and fatalities due to ongoing physical, neurological, and cognitive
22 development, including limitations in hazard recognition, risk assessment,
23 judgment, and reaction time;

24 (f) Colorado law currently recognizes the heightened vulnerability
25 of minors by requiring helmet use for motorcycle operators and
26 passengers under 18 years old; however, protective equipment alone does

1 not sufficiently mitigate the inherent risks of motorcycle operation by
2 minors;

3 (g) A substantial number of motorcycle fatalities in Colorado
4 involve riders not wearing helmets, and, even when helmets are worn,
5 minors remain at elevated risk due to the absence of structural protections
6 on motorcycles;

7 (h) Colorado's high-speed roadways, mountainous terrain, variable
8 weather conditions, and increasing traffic congestion further increase the
9 dangers associated with motorcycle operation, particularly for young and
10 inexperienced riders;

11 (i) Permitting minors to obtain motorcycle endorsements or
12 operate motorcycles based solely on consent from any individual over 21
13 years old does not adequately ensure responsible oversight, informed
14 decision-making, or appropriate evaluation of a minor's readiness to
15 safely operate a motorcycle;

16 (j) Requiring parental or legal guardian consent:

17 (I) Provides a higher level of accountability;

18 (II) Aligns motorcycle endorsement requirements with Colorado's
19 existing youth safety frameworks; and

20 (III) Helps ensure that minors receive appropriate training,
21 supervision, and assessment prior to operating motorcycles on public
22 roadways;

23 (k) Motorcycle-related injuries and fatalities involving minors
24 impose significant emotional and financial burdens on families and
25 substantial costs to the state through emergency medical response,
26 long-term medical care, rehabilitation, and disability support services; and

27 (l) The state of Colorado has a compelling interest in protecting

1 the health, safety, and welfare of minors and, in high-risk activities, has
2 long exercised its authority to impose age-based safety requirements,
3 including graduated driver licensing systems and child passenger safety
4 laws.

5 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is necessary
6 and appropriate to enact legislation regulating motorcycle operation and
7 endorsement eligibility involving minors, including consent and training
8 requirements, in order to protect Colorado's youth.

9 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-2-106 **as it will**
10 **become effective April 1, 2026, add (1)(f) as follows:**

11 **42-2-106. Instruction permits and temporary licenses -**
12 **penalty.**

13 (1) (f) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION,
14 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT ISSUE AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT TO A MINOR
15 WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD TO DRIVE A MOTORCYCLE UNLESS
16 THE MINOR HAS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE MINOR'S PARENT OR LEGAL
17 GUARDIAN TO DRIVE A MOTORCYCLE. THE WRITTEN PERMISSION
18 REQUIREMENT IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(f) DOES NOT APPLY TO AN
19 EMANCIPATED MINOR.

20 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date -**
21 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following
22 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the
23 general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13,
24 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1
25 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section,
26 or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part
27 will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election

1 to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the
2 date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

3 (2) This act applies to applications for instruction permits
4 submitted on or after the applicable effective date of this act.