



SENATE BILL 478, -relating to the administration of the motorcycle operator training and safety program; authorizing a fee.- Senator Zaffirini

2023 88th Texas Legislative Session

This bill removes Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) from the administration of motorcycle instructor training and will return that training to free market practices. This will reduce the cost of the instructor training, while increasing the availability across the state. This is desperately needed, and Senator Zaffirini is to be graciously thanked for introducing this bill.

However, the following changes to this bill would better serve both the motorcycle riding and training communities:

- 1) This bill, as currently written, eliminates the motorcycle training grant program in Section 662.0115. We have worked for many years to get this program in statute and need a way to build this program for indigent or handicapped riders to increase the affordability of training. Suggest retaining this section, and moving the responsibility for the grant program to the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) as they are better suited to administer grants.
- 2) This bill, as currently written, retains a requirement that prospective motorcycle instructors must have been licensed as a rider (Class M license) for 2 years before being eligible to undergo instructor training. We are in dire need of instructors right now. Please suggest a modification of this requirement to “currently holds an unrestricted Class M license”, which would facilitate ramping up qualified applicants for training.
- 3) This bill, as currently written, postpones these needed changes until January 2024. Please suggest a standard effective date of September 1st, 2023.