

Chapter 539

(Senate Bill 68)

AN ACT concerning

**Driver's Licenses – Driver Skills Examination – Motorcycle Safety Awareness
(D. Torch Road Safety Act)**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to include certain questions related to motorcycle safety awareness on the driver skills examination required for the issuance of a driver's license; and generally relating to driver skills examinations.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 16–110
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly honors the life and legacy of Donnell “Torch” Floyd Jr.; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

16–110.

(a) The Administration shall:

(1) Establish qualifications for the safe operation of the various classes, types, sizes, or combinations of vehicles; and

(2) Examine each applicant to determine the applicant's qualifications for the license class applied for.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the Administration shall examine each applicant for an original driver's license or for a class of driver's license higher than that which the applicant currently holds.

(c) **(1)** The examination shall include:

[(1)] (I) A test of the applicant's:

[(i)] 1. Vision;

[(ii)] 2. Ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; and

[(iii)] 3. Knowledge of the traffic laws of this State and safe driving practices;

[(2)] (II) A demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise reasonable control in driving a motor vehicle; and

[(3)] (III) Any other additional physical or mental examination that the Administration considers necessary to determine an applicant's fitness to drive a motor vehicle safely.

(2) (I) 1. THE POOL OF QUESTIONS FROM WHICH THE EXAMINATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION DRAWS SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST FIVE QUESTIONS RELATED TO MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS.

2. AT LEAST ONE QUESTION RELATED TO MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS SHALL APPEAR ON THE EXAMINATION.

(II) THE QUESTIONS REQUIRED BY THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL ADDRESS:

1. VISIBILITY OF MOTORCYCLES;

2. PROPER LANE POSITIONING AROUND MOTORCYCLES;

3. SAFE FOLLOWING DISTANCES AROUND MOTORCYCLES;

4. PREVENTING CRASHES WITH MOTORCYCLES; AND

5. ANY OTHER TOPIC RELATED TO MOTORCYCLE SAFETY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DEEMS RELEVANT.

(d) If an applicant is qualified to take the required examinations for the license applied for, the applicant shall appear in person for examination at any one of the places in this State that the Administration has designated for this purpose.

(e) (1) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, for a required driver skills examination or driver road examination, each applicant shall provide a motor vehicle of a type appropriate to test the applicant's ability to drive all vehicles that may be driven under the license class applied for.

(ii) An applicant may not use an autocycle to test the applicant's ability to drive under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, when the holder of a learner's instructional permit appears for the driving test, the permit holder shall be accompanied by an individual qualified under § 16–105 of this subtitle to accompany the holder of a learner's permit while driving on a highway. That individual shall have his driver's license with him.

(3) The holder of a Class M (motorcycle) learner's instructional permit may:

(i) Transport a motorcycle to the driving test by truck or other vehicle unaccompanied by another individual, if the permit holder is licensed to drive the truck or other vehicle; or

(ii) Be accompanied by a person transporting a motorcycle to the test by truck or other vehicle, if that person is licensed to drive the truck or other vehicle.

(4) The holder of a learner's instructional permit may be driven to the examination station and to the starting point where the examiner begins the test by any individual authorized to drive the class of vehicle in which the test is being given. That individual shall have a valid driver's license in the individual's possession.

(f) If the applicant does not pass the examination for the license class applied for, the Administration may issue the applicant any license of a lower class for which the applicant qualifies.

(g) Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, the Administration may waive any driver's license examination provided for under this title if the applicant:

(1) Holds a valid driver's license issued under this subtitle;

(2) Is applying for a Class M license and has successfully completed the Administration approved basic motorcycle safety course; or

(3) Holds a valid license from:

(i) Another state;

(ii) A territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; or

(iii) A province or territory of Canada.

(h) The Administration may not waive a vision examination required under this section unless the applicant:

(1) Is applying for a corrected driver's license under § 16-114.1 of this subtitle; and

(2) Has passed a vision examination acceptable to the Administration within the last 12 months.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.