

To The Honorable Nikki Haley:

Greetings from the great city of Sumter. Thank you for everything that you do for this wonderful state and for being a strong and steady voice for all South Carolinians. I am sure you are busy in the midst of such a vivacious political season. Nevertheless, I wanted to write regarding, what I perceive as a loop hole, in recently amended motorcycle laws.

I agree that motorcycle riders obtaining a permit as an end goal is not sufficient for public safety or the safety of riders themselves. I have come across an issue regarding the new mandate. Years ago I had a motorcycle permit and a motorcycle, but sold it so that my family would have the finances needed while my wife took maternity leave. Days ago, I purchased a motorcycle and am going through the process needed to legally ride and have come across an issue.

Motorcycle riders who have a permit that has expired and a new motorcycle, but are trying to obtain a renewal on the permit must take the road test. It puts these riders at a disadvantage because no longer can riders practice with newly purchased motorcycle tests, but instead they must take the road test immediately after not riding for years. This also presents a problem of transportation to our local SCDMV's. If a motorcycle is purchased by a rider (needing a renewal) but that rider does not have a way to transport the motorcycle to the DMV (trailer, truck, etc) or a friend to meet at the DMV, there is no legal way for a rider to transport the newly purchased motorcycle to obtain the permit. The only options would be to either illegally transport the motorcycle to the DMV, or to illegally transport the motorcycle home (with the exclusion of the option of refraining from buying a motorcycle, because I'm confident that is not the intent of our state [to dissuade riders from picking up a hobby again]).

I imagine your job is very difficult, but I just wanted to express my concern for this particular portion of the mandate. I hope you take this into consideration, and if possible, make some sort of change that would enable those motorcycle riders to easily pick up their hobby again. I would love to ride my newly purchased motorcycle, but unfortunately it is still at the dealership that I bought it from. I try to uphold a law abiding example for those who follow me, which is why I'm writing. This specific law seems to make it very difficult for 'returning riders' to legally take new motorcycles to the DMV to renew permits, unless they have other means of transporting large motorcycles. For a middle class father and husband, who drives a Volkswagen hatch back car and no trailer, this proves very difficult.

Again, I am proud to have you as our Governor. I am not sure that you will be able to make any difference according to this letter, but either verdict would not change the pride I hold as you sit in the office of Governor of South Carolina. Thank you again, and I encourage you to fight the good fight, and never compromise.

Travis Kinley