

TITLE 9: VEHICLE CODE
DIVISION 2: REGISTRATION AND LICENSES

§ 2202. Operator's License: Fees.

(a) No person, other than those expressly exempted in this division, shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway in the Commonwealth unless that person has been licensed as an operator under this division. A violation of this section shall be punishable by not more than six months imprisonment, or a fine of not more than \$500, or both.

(b) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway in the Commonwealth without having on his person or in his immediate possession a valid license issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or a valid operator's license from outside the Commonwealth, provided there is compliance with 9 CMC § 2203. A violation of this section shall be a civil infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 for the first offense and not more than \$100 for any second or subsequent offense. Any person assessed a civil fine under this subsection may, in lieu of appearing in court, pay the fine to the CMNI Judiciary cashier prior to the court appearance date.

(c) A fee of \$50 shall be paid for each operator's license issued, with the exception of an operator's license issued to a Veteran as provided in subsection (d). A fee of \$10 shall be paid for each duplicate or substitute license. All fees collected, including the learner's permit fee, shall be placed in an account separate from the general fund and distributed as follows: 40% for the operations and programs of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, 40% for the upkeep and maintenance of road shoulders by the Department of Public Works and 10% to the upkeep and maintenance of street lights by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.* The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall be the expenditure authority of the 50% for the operations and programs of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles provided that each respective senatorial district's expenditure authorities shall be as follows: in the First and Second Senatorial District, the Department of Public Safety Resident Director Heads, and in the Third Senatorial District, the Department of Public Safety Commissioner.

(d) The operator's license fee for a Veteran shall be 25% less than the fee charged for a similar operator's license. A copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the Department of Defense (DD 214) or certification from the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, which signifies proof that he/she served in the U.S. military services, must be furnished to the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Finance in order to waive the operator's license fees.

(e) The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement and comply with the Commonwealth Real ID Act, the Real ID Act of 2005, and the requirements of this Article.

*So in original.

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Source: PL 3-61, § 1 (§ 213); amended by PL 5-16, § 1; (c) repealed and (d) renumbered to (c) by PL 15-29, § 5; amended by PL 16-1, § 2; section renumbered and (f) enacted by PL 19-58 § 4 (Aug. 1, 2016); amended by PL 20-39, § 2 (Jan. 26, 2018), modified; repealed and reenacted by PL 20-90, § 3 (Feb. 18, 2019), modified.

Commission Comment: With respect to the references to the “Director of Public Safety,” see Executive Order 94-3 (effective Aug. 23, 1994), reorganizing the executive branch, changing agency names and official titles, and effecting other changes, set forth in the Commission comment to [1 CMC § 2001](#).

PL 15-29 took effect on September 26, 2006, and contained the following title, findings, and global amendment sections, in addition to other amendments and severability and savings clauses.

Section 1. Title. This Act may be cited as the “Motor Scooter Act of 2006.”

Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that motor scooters have become a popular mode of transportation for residents and tourists in the Commonwealth. The Legislature further finds that motor scooter businesses have flourished in the past few years as well. However, the Legislature finds that traffic accidents involving motor scooters have also increased due to the increased use of motor scooters on public highways. Furthermore, there was at least one reported traffic fatality involving a motor scooter the past year.

Based on the foregoing reasons, the Legislature finds that motor scooters must be better regulated to protect the health and welfare of CNMI residents as well as tourists visiting the Commonwealth. The purpose of this legislation is to classify motor scooters in a distinct category from mopeds and motorcycles, to make applicable to motor scooters certain rights and duties applicable to other motor vehicles, and to require certain safety equipment on motor scooters and mopeds operated in the Commonwealth.

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Section 9. Global Amendment. The term “motor vehicle” shall be amended and construed to include “motor scooter” throughout Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code.

In codifying PL 16-1, the Commission renumbered this section from 9 CMC § 2201 pursuant to 1 CMC § 3806(a).

In codifying PL 20-39, the Commission struck “of this section” after “subsection (a)” in (d) and changed all dollar amounts to numerals in (d) and (e) pursuant to 1 CMC § 3806(g).

PL 20-90 repealed and reenacted 9 CMC § 2202. In codifying PL 20-90, the Commission changed “9 CMC § 2202” to “9 CMC § 2203” in (b) pursuant to 1 CMC § 3806(c) and (g). In (c), the Commission removed “of this section” after

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“subsection (d)” pursuant to 1 CMC § 3806(d) and changed “districts” to “district’s” pursuant to 1 CMC § 3806(g).