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SMARTER, Inc.

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## Graduated Licensing

I applaud ND's and Carols investigation into possible modification of their current licensing system for motorcycle operators.

The searches SMARTER has completed have not revealed any research regarding the effectiveness for reducing crash risk of motorcycle operator licensing. We have found no evaluations of whether increasing the proportion of motorcycle riders who are validly licensed reduces the number of motorcycles crashes. There is, however, some good information available regarding licensing including a 2009 NHSTA report that includes a model graduated motorcycle licensing program found here: <http://smarter-usa.org/research/licensing/>

One type of graduated licensing system connects age, driving experience and skills gradually over time in low-risk environments. In a graduated system licensing, age and experience/education are intertwined. This might be termed an age and stage (of learning) system.

A second type of system (maybe call it a level or step system) connects age, power (cc size or horsepower) of the motorcycle and may be passing time without regard to experience/education.

A third type of system could be formed from a combination of these components.

According to the NHTSA report graduated driver licensing for automobile operators has been scientifically proven to reduce crash and fatality rates for novice drivers, particularly those under 18. The report recommends a graduated driver licensing system for motorcycle operators that is integrated with multi-stage driver/rider education/training that focuses on rider skills as well as rider motivations and attitudes.

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