

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.

(b) A fee of \$50 shall be paid for each operator's license issued, with the exemption of an operator's license issued to a Veteran as well for a Temporary Operator's License which shall cost \$100.* A fee of \$15 shall be paid for each duplicate or substitute license.

(1) 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.

(2) The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall promulgate rules and regulations to enforce this Act provided further that said rules and regulations shall permit the issuance of a Temporary Driver's License that shall be required for any and all drivers who wish to operate a vehicle for a period not to exceed 90 days and provided that the operator can produce a license in the English language as proof of driving competency. Holders of valid driver's licenses from U.S. jurisdictions, or other licenses that are in the English language shall be exempt from this provision and may operate a vehicle consistent with other applicable CNMI law.

(c) 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 or a valid operator's license from outside the Commonwealth, provided there is compliance with 9 CMC § 2202.

(d) A violation of subsection (a) shall be punishable by not more than six months imprisonment, and a mandatory fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or both.

(e) A violation of subsection (c) shall be a civil infraction punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 but not more than \$50 for the first offense and not less than \$50 but 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 Clerk of Court prior to the court appearance date.

(f) 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.

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\(g\)](#).