

Dear Representative Francis and Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Larry Parks and I am testifying for support of House Bill 2031 that would eliminate the requirement a Kansas drivers license being required to teach a drivers education course in the State of Kansas. I retired as a Police Sergeant with 30 years of service with the Johnson County Sheriffs Department and the Olathe Police Department. I served from 1980 through 2008. I'm a lifelong motorcycle enthusiast and have ridden motorcycles since I was 10 years old. In 2005, I became a motorcycle instructor and was certified to teach through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation which is a nationwide organization that promotes motorcycle safety and the instruction of certified instructors. The instructor course is a full 7 days with high standards and qualifications. After completing the instructor training, I taught at the Midwest Motorcycle Training Center in Olathe until they closed in 2007. Johnson County Community College then started a motorcycle training program through their Continuing Education Department and I taught there from 2008 until 2011. In 2009, I was offered a teaching position at Gail's Harley Davidson in Grandview and taught there and JCCC for two years. In 2012, I became the motorcycle training manager at Gail's Harley Davidson and due to time constraints, I was no longer able to teach at JCCC. As the motorcycle training manager, one of my many duties was to identify, recruit, and train new instructors. As with most positions turnover does occur, and I was always hoping to hire 2 to 3 new instructors each year. But finding qualified potential instructors is challenging when you need Instructors who can teach someone who has never sit on a motorcycle in their life and the above average riding skills to demonstrate the proper techniques in controlling a motorcycle. I was fortunate if I could find one new instructor a year that possessed the qualities of teaching in a classroom and the riding skills required to pass the instructor course. I have hired instructors that failed the instructor course or passed the course but did not have the personality, patience, or skill to remain employed at Gail's.

Prior to the Department of Transportation taking over the management of drivers education, there were many highly qualified Missouri instructors that taught in Kansas and I worked with many of them at Johnson County Community College. When the Department of Transportation started enforcing the Kansas drivers license requirement to teach motorcycle safety in Kansas, I had a hiring boom at Gail's. When those Missouri instructors could no longer teach in Kansas, I hired several of them to work for me and they were a great addition to our team. The certification to teach in Kansas and Missouri is the same, it requires successful completion of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Instructor Course.

Motorcycle safety training is important and studies show those who complete a safety course are safer riders, are more likely to wear protective gear, and are involved in fewer

motorcycle accidents. There is a shortage of instructors nationwide and by restricting instructors available to teach in Kansas by meeting a requirement they must possess a Kansas drivers license reduces the pool of available qualified instructors. With Gail retiring and closing her business in June of 2024, I'm coming back to teach in Kansas and hope the many qualified Missouri instructors that I worked with will have the opportunity to also teach in Kansas.

Larry Parks
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Experience/Titles:

2005/2007- Motorcycle Safety Instructor at Midwest Motorcycle Training Center
2008/2011- Motorcycle Safety Instructor at Johnson County Community College
2009/2011- Motorcycle Safety Instructor at Gail's Harley Davidson
2012/2024- Motorcycle Safety Manager at Gail's Harley Davidson
2025- Motorcycle Safety Instructor at Rawhide Harley Davidson