

AS TABLED IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

A BILL

entitled

AUXILIARY BICYCLES (PROJECT RIDE) AMENDMENT ACT 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Citation
2	Amends section 1
3	Amends section 9
4	Inserts sections 9AA, 9AB, 9AC and 9AD
5	Amends section 9A
6	Amends section 10
7	Consequential amendment

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Auxiliary Bicycles Act 1954 to provide auxiliary driver's licences for visitors and on-road instruction, on-road testing, and a learner's permit for persons enrolled in Project Ride to obtain a Bermuda youth licence;

Be it enacted by The King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Citation

1 This Act, which amends the Auxiliary Bicycles Act 1954 ("the principal Act"), may be cited as the Auxiliary Bicycles (Project Ride) Amendment Act 2026.

Amends section 1

2 Section 1 of the principal Act is amended by inserting the following in their proper alphabetical places—

“ “Director” means the Director of Transport Control (as provided in section 6(2) of the Motor Car Act 1951);

“learner's permit” means a temporary permit issued by the Director under section 9AD(1) authorizing a person to operate an auxiliary bicycle on public roads for the purpose of on-road instruction;

AUXILIARY BICYCLES (PROJECT RIDE) AMENDMENT ACT 2026

“on-road instruction” means practical driving instruction of an auxiliary bicycle on a public road under the supervision of a Project Ride instructor;

“on-road test” means a practical driving test of a person enrolled in Project Ride to drive an auxiliary bicycle on a public road under the supervision of an examiner;

“Project Ride” means a program established by the Director for the purpose of educating young persons in the safe and responsible use of an auxiliary bicycle and road safety in general;

“Project Ride instructor” means any person approved by the Director to conduct road safety training under Project Ride including on-road instruction;”.

Amends section 9

3 Section 9 of the principal Act is amended by—

(a) inserting the following after subsection (2)—

“(2A) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (1) or (2), a person who does not hold a valid driver’s licence may, subject to any regulations, drive an auxiliary bicycle if he holds a learner’s permit issued under section 9AD—

(a) while he is undergoing on-road instruction; or

(b) while he is undergoing an on-road test.”;

(b) inserting the following after subsection (8)—

“(9) In this section “valid driver’s licence or Bermuda youth licence”, in relation to the driving of an auxiliary bicycle or livery auxiliary bicycle, means valid for the driving of an auxiliary bicycle.

(10) This section shall extend to the driving of an auxiliary bicycle on an estate road.”.

Inserts sections 9AA, 9AB, 9AC and 9AD

4 The principal Act is amended by inserting the following after section 9—

“Driver’s licences for visitors

9AA (1) Where a person who is a visitor to Bermuda applies for a driver’s licence the Director shall, if the visitor is otherwise eligible for the grant of a driver’s licence, issue a licence to the visitor if the Director is satisfied—

(a) that the visitor has been present in Bermuda for a period of at least thirty days immediately preceding the date on which he applied for the licence; or

AUXILIARY BICYCLES (PROJECT RIDE) AMENDMENT ACT 2026

- (b) that the visitor intends to remain in Bermuda continuously for a period of at least thirty days immediately succeeding the date on which he applied for the licence.
- (2) In this section—
- (a) “visitor” does not include a person—
 - (i) who owns and maintains for his own use and occupation a dwelling house in Bermuda; or
 - (ii) who is a member of the family of such a person in subsection (1) and who is an occupant of the same dwelling house; and
 - (b) “member of the family” in relation to the owner of a dwelling house means a person who is—
 - (i) related to the owner or to his spouse in a nearer degree than the degree of first cousin; or
 - (ii) the spouse of the owner or of any person to whom subparagraph (i) refers.

Project Ride instructor

9AB (1) A person shall apply to the Director for a Project Ride instructor’s licence and pay the fee prescribed in the Government Fees Regulations 1976 to obtain such licence.

(2) No person shall act as a Project Ride instructor for gain or reward unless he is in possession of an instructor’s licence issued by the Director.

(3) A licence issued under subsection (1) shall be renewable annually on payment of the fee prescribed in the Government Fees Regulations 1976.

(4) The Minister, after consultation with the Director, may make regulations providing for—

- (a) the qualifications to be held by a Project Ride instructor;
- (b) any examination of an applicant for a Project Ride instructor’s licence;
- (c) the issue, renewal, suspension and revocation of a Project Ride instructor’s licence; and
- (d) any other matter incidental to the licensing of a Project ride instructor.

(5) Any person who acts contrary to subsection (2) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$600.

AUXILIARY BICYCLES (PROJECT RIDE) AMENDMENT ACT 2026

On-road instruction and on-road test

9AC (1) A person enrolled in Project Ride shall obtain a Bermuda youth licence upon certified completion of on-road instruction and an on-road test.

(2) The on-road test in subsection (1) shall be conducted by an examiner on a public road approved for such use by the Director and shall assess the person's—

- (a) understanding of traffic rules;
- (b) safe driving technique; and
- (c) ability to navigate live traffic conditions.

(3) The Director shall issue guidelines on the curriculum, conduct and assessment methods for on-road instruction and on-road testing.

Learner's permit; Project Ride

9AD (1) To participate in Project Ride, a person shall first obtain a learner's permit from the Director by paying the fee prescribed in the Government Fees Regulations 1976.

(2) A learner's permit in subsection (1) authorizes the holder to drive an auxiliary bicycle for the purpose of completing on-road instruction and an on-road test.

(3) A learner's permit shall not be issued—

- (a) to any person who is under the age of 16 years;
- (b) to any person who fails to produce a certificate of physical fitness in the form provided by the Director;
- (c) to any person who is a visitor to Bermuda within the meaning of section 9AD; or
- (d) to any person who is otherwise disqualified from obtaining a learner's permit.

(4) A learner's permit shall—

- (a) be valid for a period of six months; and
- (b) be subject to the conditions provided by Project Ride including routes and hours of on-road instruction.

(5) The holder of a learner's permit shall carry it while operating an auxiliary bicycle during on-road instruction and an on-road test, and present it when requested to do so by a police officer.

(6) Any person who operates an auxiliary bicycle under a learner's permit contrary to this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$200.

AUXILIARY BICYCLES (PROJECT RIDE) AMENDMENT ACT 2026

(7) A Project Ride instructor who conducts on-road instruction with a person who is not carrying a learner’s permit, as required under subsection (5), commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500.”.

Amends section 9A

5 Section 9A of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (4).

Amends section 10

6 Section 10 of the principal Act is amended by inserting the following after subsection (3)—

“(4) In this section “driver’s licence or Bermuda youth licence” includes a learner’s permit.”.

Consequential amendment

7 The Government Fees Regulations 1976 are amended by inserting the following after paragraph (6) under **Head 4 Auxiliary Bicycles 1954**—

- “ (7) Issuing or renewing a Project Ride instructor’s licence under section 9AB(1) \$121
(8) Issuing a learner’s permit under section 9AD \$12 ”.

AUXILIARY BICYCLES (PROJECT RIDE) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Auxiliary Bicycles Act 1954 (“the principal Act”) to provide for on-road instruction and on-road testing, including a learner’s permit, for persons enrolled in Project Ride to obtain a Bermuda youth licence.

Clause 1 provides the title of the Bill.

Clause 2 provides defined terms to be inserted into section 1 of the principal Act.

Clause 3 amends section 9 of the principal Act to allow a person without a valid driver’s licence to operate an auxiliary bicycle when holding a learner’s permit, undergoing on-road instruction or undergoing an on-road driving test. It also defines “valid driver’s licence or Bermuda youth licence” as one valid for driving an auxiliary bicycle and extends the section’s application to auxiliary bicycles driven on estate roads.

Clause 4 inserts new sections 9AA, 9AB, 9AC and 9AD into the principal Act to extend the regulatory framework for Project Ride by establishing the licensing requirements for Project Ride instructors to conduct on-road instruction and empowers the Minister to make regulations for the qualifications of an instructor and the issue, renewal, suspension and revocation of a licence. They also provide for the issuance of an auxiliary bicycle driver’s licence to eligible visitors who meet specified residency-related criteria, require individuals to obtain a Bermuda youth licence after certified on-road instruction and testing, empower the Director to issue related guidelines and create offences connected with learner’s permits.

Clause 5 amends section 9A of the principal Act by deleting subsection (4) to facilitate the defined term “Project Ride” being moved to the interpretation section (section 1 of the principal Act).

Clause 6 amends section 10 of the principal Act by inserting a new subsection (4) to provide that references in the section to a driver’s licence or Bermuda youth licence includes a learner’s permit.

Clause 7 makes a consequential amendment to the Government Fees Regulations 1976 to insert the fees to issue or renew a Project Ride instructor’s licence and to issue a learner’s permit.