



ASED-028

Date: October 19, 2020
Bulletin: All Inspection Station Personnel
From: Automotive Safety Enforcement Division
RE: **Operation of Motorcycles - Handlebar Height**

Maryland Vehicle Law effective October 1, 2017, for operation of a motorcycle, raised the maximum height for the handlebars of a motorcycle from 15 inches above the seat to 20 inches above the seat (See Insert Below):

§ 21-1305. Footrests and handlebars

(a) Footrests. -- If any motorcycle carries a passenger other than in a sidecar or enclosed cab, the motorcycle shall be equipped with footrests for the passenger.

(b) Handlebars. -- A person may not operate any motorcycle with handlebars more than 20 inches in height above the part of the seat occupied by the operator.

Maryland Vehicle Law for the operation of motorcycles regarding handlebar height was effective October 1, 2017.

The Division has been advising Inspection Stations to certify as compliant, a motorcycle with handlebars higher than 15 inches, but less than 20 inches above the operator seat due to this change to Maryland Vehicle Law for the operation of a motorcycle. This allowance is still in effect for the inspection of motorcycle handlebar height in Maryland.

The regulations compiled into the Vehicle Inspection Handbook are under revision to incorporate this change and other changes to better the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program in Maryland.

*If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact ASED at:
410-768-7388 or MSP.ASED@maryland.gov*