

sons over 65 are among our best and most careful drivers, and they need have no concern over losing their licenses if they can meet the standards now required of any driver. But there are no doubt some who would have physical impairments that might require either loss of license or a restricted type of license. Under this legislation, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles could take whatever steps are indicated."

*Blind and Nearly Blind* — The Health and Welfare departments would be required to notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of any person now receiving assistance for being blind or nearly blind. Any of these holding a driver's license — and, incredibly, there apparently are some who are still licensed — would be required to submit to a reexamination.

*Motorcycles* — The number of two-wheeled motor vehicles registered in Maryland has nearly tripled in 2 1/2 years. Of the 25,500 registered at present, fewer than 1,000 individuals have satisfactorily qualified as operators of these machines. The proposed legislation would provide for a comprehensive licensing system and also require that any rider of a two-wheeled motor vehicle—passenger as well as driver—wear a helmet to prevent or reduce head injuries.

*Driver Education* — "It was with some surprise that I learned shortly before taking office that no effort had been made to comply with the 1966 Maryland law which requires up to 30 hours of classroom instruction as a condition for obtaining a driver's license under age 18. The requirement was to take effect June 1 this year. This program will have to be deferred for one year in order to obtain a sufficient number of instructors to make the required training available in the public schools of this State.

"Accordingly, the bill I am submitting to the General Assembly tonight will postpone the effective date to July 1, 1968, and at the same time strengthen the law to bring it into compliance with proposed Federal standards. The new legislation will require a minimum — instead of a maximum — of 30 hours of classroom instruction and will add the vital requirement of at least six hours of on the road driving as part of any such course."

*Side Mirrors* — The bill would require that all motor vehicles be equipped with a side mirror on the driver's side to permit clear and unobstructed vision to the rear and left of the vehicle. This is standard equipment now on most cars, and the proposed legislation would make certain that all vehicles carry this important safety device.