



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 573

PRINTERS NO. 3458

PRIME SPONSOR: Fleck

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0
Municipal Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Provides for the definition, regulation and operation of “neighborhood electric vehicles” (NEVs) in the Commonwealth and defines/restricts operation of electric assist pedalcycles. This legislation would take effect as follows: 180 days for the new subchapter on NEVs, the requirement that NEVs display a slow moving vehicle emblem, and the inspection exemption for NEVs; 60 days for language relating to electric assist pedalcycles.

ANALYSIS: This legislation provides for the definition, regulation and operation of NEVs in the Commonwealth and provides for the operation of electric assist pedalcycles.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles: This legislation amends Title 75 (Vehicle Code) Section 102 (Definitions) and Chapter 35 (Special Vehicles and Pedestrians) to create a new subchapter entitled “Operation of neighborhood electric vehicles”, and to provide for regulation and operation of neighborhood electric vehicles.

The legislation defines a NEV as a four-wheeled electric vehicle that has a maximum design speed of not less than 20 miles per hour (mph) and not more than 25 mph, and that complies with the Federal safety standards established in 49 CFR 571.500 (relating to standard no. 500; low-speed vehicles).

The legislation authorizes travel in NEVs on roadways with a posted speed limit of no more than 25 mph and allows NEVs to cross roadways posted with a higher maximum speed if there is a signal. NEVs will be required to be equipped with most basic safety equipment, such as brakes, mirrors, seatbelts, windshield and wipers, speedometer, odometer, headlamps, stop lamps, turn signals and reflectors, pneumatic tires, and a VIN number stamped on the body, frame, engine or motor, among other federal requirements. NEVs can only be operated in daylight hours and not during times of decreased visibility.

NEVs will be required to be titled and registered by PennDOT and will not be subject to annual inspections. Financial responsibility appropriate to the class of vehicle is required, as is a valid driver's license. An operator of a NEV is given all the rights and is subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under the Vehicle Code.

Electric Assist Pedalcycles: The legislation defines this type of vehicle as a bicycle weighing 100 pounds or less with two or three wheels more than 11 inches in diameter and a small (not more than 750 watt) electric motor that is capable of operating at a speed of not more than 20 mph. Operation of such pedalcycles is restricted to persons 16 years of age or older.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse impact on Commonwealth or municipal funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 5, 2014

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.