

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 83

PRINTER'S NO. 619

AMOUNT

Minimal Fiscal Impact

FUND

Motor License Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 9, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Greenleaf

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to TRANSPORTATION, Jan. 9, 2013
Reported as committed, Jan. 30, 2013
First consideration, Jan. 30, 2013
Second consideration, Feb. 4, 2013
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Feb. 4, 2013
Re-reported as amended, March 11, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 83 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, by adding a subchapter, to further provide for the operation, titling and registration of neighborhood electric vehicles. The legislation defines a "neighborhood electric vehicle" as a four-wheeled electric vehicle that has a maximum design speed of not less than 20 miles per hour and not more than 25 miles per hour and that is certified by the manufacturer to comply with Federal motor vehicle safety standards for low speed vehicles.

In general, neighborhood electric vehicles may not be operated on any roadway under the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (Department) jurisdiction with a speed limit in excess of 25 miles per hour. The Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) may authorize the use of such vehicles on roadways with speed limits of up to 35 miles per hour at his discretion. The Secretary may also prohibit the use of neighborhood electric vehicles on streets under the Department's jurisdiction where it is determined that the operation of such vehicles would constitute a hazard. Local authorities would have similar latitude regarding the use of neighborhood electric vehicles on local roadways and streets.

The bill requires neighborhood electric vehicles to be equipped with adequate brakes, an odometer, a speedometer, seatbelts and a slow moving vehicle emblem. Neighborhood electric vehicles would be required to be titled and registered with the Department. Operators would be required to have a valid driver's license and to maintain automobile insurance as required under Chapter 17 (relating to financial responsibility).

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FISCAL NOTE

Purchasers of new neighborhood electric vehicles would be required to execute a waiver and certify that the vehicle was purchased with full knowledge of the potentially hazardous characteristics of the vehicle. Waivers must be maintained by the manufacturer or dealer with a copy provided to the purchaser.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV's) will represent a new class of vehicles that are not currently titled or registered in the Commonwealth. Therefore, the Department may incur minimal non-recurring costs for computer system upgrades to accommodate the inclusion of the various makes and models of NEV's for the titling and registration system. Depending on the number of NEV title and registration applications processed by the Department, these costs may be offset by the applicable titling and registration fees.