
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 83 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, WOZNIAK, TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK, COSTA,
WAUGH AND BOSCOLA, JANUARY 9, 2013

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 9, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for
3 definitions; in special vehicles and pedestrians, providing
4 for regulation and operation of neighborhood electric
5 vehicles; and, in inspection of vehicles, further providing
6 for operation of vehicle without official certificate of
7 inspection.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania
11 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:

12 § 102. Definitions.

13 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent
14 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific
15 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when
16 used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly
17 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

18 * * *

19 "Neighborhood electric vehicle." A four-wheeled electric
20 vehicle that has a maximum design speed of not less than 20

1 miles per hour and of not more than 25 miles per hour and that
2 is certified by the manufacturer to comply with the Federal
3 motor vehicle safety standards established in 49 CFR § 571.500
4 (relating to Standard No. 500; Low-speed vehicles).

5 * * *

6 Section 2. Chapter 35 of Title 75 is amended by adding a
7 subchapter to read:

8 SUBCHAPTER F

9 OPERATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES

10 Sec.

11 3591. Scope of subchapter.

12 3592. Required equipment.

13 3593. Operation on certain highways or roadways.

14 3594. Same treatment as passenger cars.

15 3595. Seating limitation.

16 3596. Waiver of liability.

17 § 3591. Scope of subchapter.

18 This subchapter applies to the operation of neighborhood
19 electric vehicles on certain highways or roadways in this
20 Commonwealth.

21 § 3592. Required equipment.

22 (a) General rule.--A neighborhood electric vehicle operated
23 upon any highway or roadway in this Commonwealth shall be
24 maintained in proper condition and comply with the equipment
25 requirements and standards as set forth in 49 CFR § 571.500
26 (relating to Standard No. 500; Low-speed vehicles). A
27 neighborhood electric vehicle operated upon any highway or
28 roadway in this Commonwealth shall be equipped with the
29 following additional equipment:

30 (1) Brakes adequate to control the movement of and to

1 stop such vehicle.

2 (2) An odometer.

3 (3) A speedometer.

4 (4) The original manufacturer's vehicle identification
5 number die stamped upon the body or frame, or both, of the
6 vehicle or the original manufacturer's vehicle identification
7 number die stamped upon the engine or motor of the vehicle.

8 (5) A windshield wiper.

9 (6) A horn.

10 (7) A battery charge indicator.

11 (b) Exemption.--A neighborhood electric vehicle shall be
12 exempt from equipment requirements not enumerated in this
13 subchapter.

14 (c) 25 MPH vehicle decal.--A neighborhood electric vehicle
15 shall have a safety information decal as provided by the
16 manufacturer affixed in a conspicuous place on the rear of the
17 vehicle which shall display in prominent lettering "25 MPH
18 Vehicle." The decal shall be at least 4 inches in height by 10
19 inches in length.

20 (d) Penalties.--Any person who operates a neighborhood
21 electric vehicle without the equipment prescribed in this
22 section shall be subject to the penalties under section 6502
23 (relating to summary offenses).

24 § 3593. Operation on certain highways or roadways.

25 (a) Operation on State highways.--

26 (1) Except as otherwise provided under paragraphs (2)
27 and (3), a neighborhood electric vehicle may not be operated
28 upon any highway or roadway under the jurisdiction of the
29 department with a posted speed in excess of 25 miles per
30 hour.

1 (2) The secretary may, by order, permit the use of a
2 neighborhood electric vehicle upon any highway or roadway
3 under the jurisdiction of the department where the posted
4 speed limit is greater than 25 miles per hour but not greater
5 than 35 miles per hour.

6 (3) The secretary may, by order, prohibit the use of a
7 neighborhood electric vehicle on any street under the
8 jurisdiction of the department where the secretary determines
9 that the operation of a neighborhood electric vehicle would
10 constitute a hazard.

11 (4) Any order issued by the secretary under paragraph
12 (2) or (3) shall be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

13 (b) Operation on local roadways.--

14 (1) Except as otherwise provided under paragraph (2) or
15 (3), a neighborhood electric vehicle may not be operated upon
16 any highway or roadway under the jurisdiction of a local
17 authority with a posted speed limit in excess of 25 miles per
18 hour.

19 (2) Local authorities may, by ordinance or resolution,
20 as appropriate, in the case of any roadway under their
21 jurisdiction, permit the use of a neighborhood electric
22 vehicle where the posted speed limit is greater than 25 miles
23 per hour but not greater than 35 miles per hour.

24 (3) A local authority may, by ordinance or resolution,
25 as appropriate, prohibit the use of a neighborhood electric
26 vehicle on any roadway where the local authority determines
27 that the operation of a neighborhood electric vehicle would
28 constitute a hazard.

29 (c) Intersection with State highways.--

30 (1) A neighborhood electric vehicle may enter an

1 intersection and cross any highway or roadway under the
2 jurisdiction of the department where the posted speed limit
3 is 35 miles per hour or less, provided that, if the highway
4 or roadway is more than two lanes or is divided, such
5 crossing shall only occur at a signalized intersection.

6 (2) A neighborhood electric vehicle may enter an
7 intersection and cross any highway or roadway under the
8 jurisdiction of the department where the posted speed limit
9 is in excess of 35 miles per hour only at a signalized
10 intersection.

11 (d) Intersection with local roadways.--

12 (1) A neighborhood electric vehicle may enter an
13 intersection and cross any highway or roadway under the
14 jurisdiction of a local authority where the posted speed
15 limit is 35 miles per hour or less, provided that, if the
16 highway or roadway is more than two lanes or is divided, such
17 crossing shall only occur at signalized intersections.

18 (2) A neighborhood electric vehicle may enter an
19 intersection and cross any highway or roadway under the
20 jurisdiction of a local authority where the posted speed
21 limit is in excess of 35 miles per hour only at a signalized
22 intersection.

23 (e) Violation.--Any person operating a neighborhood electric
24 vehicle upon a highway or roadway or crossing a highway or
25 roadway in violation of this section shall be subject to the
26 penalties under section 6502 (relating to summary offenses).
27 § 3594. Same treatment as passenger cars.

28 (a) General rule.--A neighborhood electric vehicle shall be
29 considered a passenger car for the purposes of Part II (relating
30 to title, registration and licensing) and section 4581 (relating

1 to restraint systems).

2 (b) Financial responsibility.--An operator of a neighborhood
3 electric vehicle shall maintain financial responsibility in a
4 type and amount of coverage as defined in section 1702 (relating
5 to definitions). No policyholder shall be required to purchase
6 and an insurer shall not be required to offer or make available
7 any other coverages contained in Chapter 17 (relating to
8 financial responsibility).

9 § 3595. Seating limitation.

10 A neighborhood electric vehicle may not be operated at a time
11 in which the number of passengers exceeds the number of
12 available safety belts in the vehicle.

13 § 3596. Waiver of liability.

14 (a) General rule.--A purchaser of a new neighborhood
15 electric vehicle in this Commonwealth shall execute a waiver and
16 certify that the neighborhood electric vehicle was purchased
17 with full knowledge of the potentially hazardous characteristics
18 of such vehicles as detailed by the manufacturer or the
19 manufacturer's agent or dealer.

20 (b) Manufacturer responsibility.--The waiver shall be
21 prepared by the manufacturer and kept in the possession of the
22 manufacturer and the manufacturer's agent or dealer of
23 neighborhood electric vehicles. An executed copy shall be
24 provided to the purchaser.

25 (c) Signing by purchaser.--The signing of the waiver by the
26 purchaser shall serve to eliminate any liability of the
27 manufacturer and the manufacturer's agent or dealer of
28 neighborhood electric vehicles.

29 Section 3. Section 4703(b) of Title 75 is amended by adding
30 a paragraph to read:

1 § 4703. Operation of vehicle without official certificate of
2 inspection.

3 * * *

4 (b) Exceptions.--Subsection (a) does not apply to:

5 * * *

6 (14) A neighborhood electric vehicle.

7 * * *

8 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 180 days.