
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 542 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, FARNESE, BARTOLOTTA, MENSCH AND
TARTAGLIONE, APRIL 10, 2019

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 10, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for
3 definitions; in certificate of title and security interests,
4 further providing for vehicles not requiring certificate of
5 title; in registration of vehicles, further providing for
6 vehicles exempt from registration; in rules of the road in
7 general, further providing for prohibitions in specified
8 places; in special vehicles and pedestrians, providing for
9 electric low-speed scooters; in miscellaneous provisions,
10 further providing for driving upon sidewalk; and, in powers
11 of Department of Transportation and local authorities,
12 further providing for specific powers of Department of
13 Transportation and local authorities.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. The definition of "motor vehicle" in section 102
17 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended
18 and the section is amended by adding a definition to read:

19 § 102. Definitions.

20 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent
21 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific
22 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when
23 used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly

1 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

2 * * *

3 "Electric low-speed scooter." A device weighing less than
4 100 pounds that:

5 (1) has two or three wheels, a handlebar and a
6 floorboard which can be stood upon while riding;

7 (2) is solely powered by an electric motor or human
8 power, or both; and

9 (3) has a maximum speed, with or without human
10 propulsion, of not more than 20 miles per hour on a paved
11 level surface.

12 * * *

13 "Motor vehicle." A vehicle which is self-propelled except an
14 electric personal assistive mobility device, an electric low-
15 speed scooter or a vehicle which is propelled solely by human
16 power.

17 * * *

18 Section 2. Sections 1102 and 1302 of Title 75 are amended by
19 adding paragraphs to read:

20 § 1102. Vehicles not requiring certificate of title.

21 No certificate of title is required for:

22 * * *

23 (13) An electric low-speed scooter.

24 § 1302. Vehicles exempt from registration.

25 The following types of vehicles are exempt from registration:

26 * * *

27 (24) An electric low-speed scooter.

28 Section 3. Section 3353(a)(1)(ii) of Title 75 is amended to
29 read:

30 § 3353. Prohibitions in specified places.

1 (a) General rule.--Except when necessary to avoid conflict
2 with other traffic or to protect the safety of any person or
3 vehicle or in compliance with law or the directions of a police
4 officer or official traffic-control device, no person shall:

5 (1) Stop, stand or park a vehicle:

6 * * *

7 (ii) On a sidewalk except that a pedalcycle may be
8 parked as provided in section [3509(b)(2)] 3509(a)(2).

9 * * *

10 Section 4. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to read:
11 § 3515. Electric low-speed scooters.

12 (a) General rule.--Every person operating an electric low-
13 speed scooter shall be granted all of the rights and shall be
14 subject to all of the duties applicable to the operator of a
15 pedalcycle by this subchapter, except as to those provisions of
16 this subchapter which by their nature can have no application.

17 (b) Age and speed requirement.--No person under the age
18 sufficient to operate an automobile shall operate an electric
19 low-speed scooter, and no person shall operate an electric low-
20 speed scooter at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour.

21 (c) Lamps and reflectors.--Every electric low-speed scooter
22 when operated on a sidewalk, sidewalk area or highway between
23 sunset and sunrise shall be equipped on the front with a lamp
24 which emits a beam of white light intended to illuminate the
25 scooter operator's path and visible from a distance of at least
26 500 feet in front, a red reflector facing to the rear which is
27 visible at least 500 feet to the rear and a reflector on each
28 side.

29 (d) Electric low-speed scooters prohibited on freeways.--No
30 person shall operate an electric low-speed scooter on a freeway.

1 (e) Application of subchapter.--The provisions of this
2 subchapter apply whenever an electric low-speed scooter is
3 operated or parked in this Commonwealth, subject to the
4 exceptions stated in subsection (a).

5 Section 5. Section 3703 of Title 75 is amended by adding a
6 subsection to read:

7 § 3703. Driving upon sidewalk.

8 * * *

9 (d) Electric low-speed scooters.--Unless prohibited by
10 ordinance, a municipality shall permit the operation of an
11 electric low-speed scooter on a sidewalk or sidewalk area. A
12 municipality may impose such restrictions as may be necessary to
13 protect the interests of pedestrians and others using the
14 sidewalk or sidewalk area.

15 Section 6. Section 6109(a) of Title 75 is amended by adding
16 a paragraph to read:

17 § 6109. Specific powers of department and local authorities.

18 (a) Enumeration of police powers.--The provisions of this
19 title shall not be deemed to prevent the department on State-
20 designated highways and local authorities on streets or highways
21 within their physical boundaries from the reasonable exercise of
22 their police powers. The following are presumed to be reasonable
23 exercises of police power:

24 * * *

25 (25) Regulating the use of electric low-speed scooters
26 consistent with the regulation of pedalcycles.

27 * * *

28 Section 7. This act shall take effect in 60 days.