

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 783 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, COSTA, SAVAL, BREWSTER, FONTANA,
ROBINSON AND STEFANO, JUNE 17, 2021

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 17, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in special vehicles and pedestrians, providing for
3 electric low-speed scooter pilot program.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 3515. Electric low-speed scooter pilot program.

9 (a) Requirement.--An electric low-speed scooter may only be
10 operated on a pedalcycle lane on a roadway, a roadway or a
11 pedalcycle path within the boundaries of a city of the second
12 class where an executive order has been issued authorizing the
13 operation of electric low-speed scooters under a micro-mobility
14 pilot project as provided under subsection (b). Other places to
15 operate an electric low-speed scooter may be authorized by
16 executive order, in consultation with the property owner.

17 (b) Micro-mobility pilot project.--An executive order may be
18 issued in a city of the second class which authorizes the use of

1 electric low-speed scooters under a micro-mobility pilot project
2 to commence in the city of the second class and which provides a
3 limited fleet of electric low-speed scooters within the
4 boundaries of the city of a second class.

5 (c) Operation.--Unless otherwise specified, every individual
6 operating an electric low-speed scooter authorized under
7 subsection (a) shall be granted all of the rights and shall be
8 subject to all of the duties applicable to the operator of a
9 pedalcycle under this subchapter.

10 (d) Age requirement.--The following shall apply:

11 (1) No individual under 16 years of age may operate an
12 electric low-speed scooter on a roadway unless permitted by
13 local ordinance.

14 (2) No commercial electric scooter enterprise may rent
15 an electric low-speed scooter to an individual under 16 years
16 of age.

17 (e) Speed requirement.--No individual may operate an
18 electric low-speed scooter on a pedalcycle lane on a highway, a
19 roadway or a pedalcycle path at a speed greater than 15 miles
20 per hour.

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

28 (g) Operation prohibited on freeways.--No individual may
29 operate an electric low-speed scooter on a freeway.

30 (h) Powers of department and local authorities.--This

1 section shall not be deemed to prevent the department on State-
2 designated highways and local authorities on streets or highways
3 within the local authority's physical boundaries from the
4 reasonable exercise of the department's or the local authority's
5 police powers.

6 (i) Ordinances, policies and regulations.--Notwithstanding
7 any other provision of law, a city of the second class may adopt
8 an ordinance, regulation or policy for the safety, operation and
9 management of electric low-speed scooters. If an electric low-
10 speed scooter operates on a roadway owned by the department, the
11 department shall be consulted prior to the adoption of the
12 ordinance, policy or regulation.

13 (j) Presumption.--For the purposes of this section, it is
14 presumed to be a reasonable exercise of police power to regulate
15 the use of electric low-speed scooters consistent with the
16 regulation of pedalcycles.

17 (k) Application.--Notwithstanding Subchapter A of Chapter 11
18 (relating to certificate of title) or Subchapter A of Chapter 13
19 (relating to general provisions), electric low-speed scooters
20 authorized under this section shall not be required to comply
21 with certificate of title or vehicle registration requirements
22 under this title.

23 (l) Construction.--Notwithstanding any other provision of
24 law to the contrary, an electric low-speed scooter under this
25 article shall not be construed as a "motor vehicle" as defined
26 in section 102 (relating to definitions).

27 (m) Report.--A city of the second class, in coordination
28 with the department, shall prepare a report on the micro-
29 mobility pilot program 60 days prior to the expiration of the
30 micro-mobility pilot program. The report shall:

1 (1) Include the number of rides, the number of
2 accidents, frequency of use, any ordinance, regulation or
3 policy adopted under subsection (i) and safety and economic
4 impacts.

5 (2) Be submitted to the chairperson and minority
6 chairperson of the Transportation Committee of the Senate and
7 the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
8 Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives.

9 (n) Expiration.--This section shall expire two years after
10 the effective date of this section.

11 (o) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
12 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
13 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Electric low-speed scooter." As follows:

15 (1) A device weighing less than 100 pounds that:

16 (i) has handlebars and an electric motor;

17 (ii) has a floorboard which can be stood upon while
18 riding; and

19 (iii) is solely powered by the electric motor or
20 human power, or both.

21 (2) The term does not include a pedalcycle with electric
22 assist, an electric personal assistive mobility device, a
23 motorcycle, a motorized pedalcycle or a motor-driven cycle.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.