

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 51 (Delegate Lam)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device - Definition

This bill alters the definition of an electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD) in the Maryland Vehicle Law to require that an EPAMD have (1) one vertical or center control bar or mechanism that responds to pressure from the hands or legs of the rider to steer the device and (2) a nonarticulating platform on which the rider stands. Accordingly, the definition excludes self-balancing, mobility devices with articulating platforms such as hoverboards.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Enforcement can be handled with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Enforcement can be handled with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An “EPAMD” is a pedestrian device that has two nontandem wheels, is self-balancing, is powered by an electric propulsion system, and is designed to transport one person at a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour.

At an intersection, a person using an EPAMD is subject to all traffic control signals, as specified. However, at any other place, a person using an EPAMD has the rights and is subject to the restrictions applicable to pedestrians under the Maryland Vehicle Law.

Where a sidewalk is provided, a pedestrian may not walk along and on an adjacent roadway.

A person may not operate an EPAMD on any roadway where there are sidewalks adjacent to the roadway or the posted maximum speed limit is more than 30 miles per hour. An EPAMD may not be operated at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 688 of 2016 passed in the House, but received no further action from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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