

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1207 (Delegate Wells, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Vehicle Laws - Mobile Carrying Device - Definition

This bill establishes a definition for “mobile carrying device” under the Maryland Vehicle Law and specifies that a mobile carrying device is not a “vehicle” for purposes of the Maryland Vehicle Law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not substantively change local activities or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A “mobile carrying device,” as it applies to the Maryland Vehicle Law, is an electrically powered device that is equipped with technology to transport personal property with the active monitoring of the owner of the property and that (1) is designed to remain within 25 feet of the property owner; (2) is operated on a sidewalk, crosswalk, or any other pedestrian walkway; (3) weighs less than 90 pounds, excluding cargo; and (4) has a maximum speed capability of 12.5 miles per hour.

Current Law: The Maryland Vehicle Law does not reference mobile carrying devices. A “vehicle,” as defined by the Maryland Vehicle Law, is a device in, on, or which any individual or property is or might be transported or towed on a highway. “Vehicle” includes a low speed vehicle and off-highway recreational vehicle and excludes an electric personal assistive mobility device.

Background: In 2017, Italian automotive company Piaggio introduced “Gita,” a cylindrical device with an upright luggage compartment that utilizes wireless technology to follow a user who is walking. According to media reports, the device travels up to 22 miles per hour and carries up to approximately 40 pounds of cargo.

The Illinois General Assembly is considering legislation defining “mobile carrying device” under the Illinois Vehicle Code.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Illinois Vehicle Code; *The Economist*; *MIT Technology Review*; Department of Legislative Services

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