

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 869

(Delegate Malone, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Electronic Personal Assistive Mobility Devices

This bill allows footpaths and bicycle trails to be used by electric personal assistive mobility devices (EPAMD), which are defined as a pedestrian device powered by an electric propulsion system that is self-balancing, has two nontandem wheels and a maximum speed capacity of 15 miles per hour, and is designed to transport one person. The bill prohibits a person operating an EPAMD from driving on any roadway where the posted maximum speed limit is more than 30 miles per hour or where there are sidewalks adjacent to the roadway. Driving more than 15 miles per hour is also prohibited. A person operating an EPAMD is subject to all traffic control signals at an intersection but is entitled to the same rights and subject to the same restrictions as a pedestrian at any other location.

The bill also applies current operational restrictions and requirements (e.g., locations for securing the vehicle) on bicycles and motor scooters to EPAMDs and prohibits any person from operating an EPAMD on any roadway while wearing earplugs or a headset covering both ears.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Unless otherwise authorized, footpaths and bicycle trails may only be used by pedestrians and nonmotorized vehicles. A person may not operate a bicycle or a motor scooter while carrying any package, bundle, or other article that prevents the person from keeping both hands on the handlebars or that interferes with the view or balance of the operator. A person may not remove, ride on, or tamper with any part of a bicycle or a motor scooter without the permission of its owner. A person may not secure a bicycle or a motor scooter to:

- a fire hydrant, police, or fire call box, or traffic control device;
- a pole, meter, or device located within a bus or taxi-loading zone;
- a pole, meter, or device located within 25 feet of any intersection;
- a pole, meter, or device on which notice has been posted by the appropriate authorities forbidding the securing of bicycles; or
- any place where the securing of a bicycle or a motor scooter would obstruct or impede vehicular traffic or pedestrian movement.

A bicycle or a motor scooter may be secured to a parking meter, without payment of the usual fees, if the bicycle is entirely removed from the bed of the street normally used for vehicular parking.

Additional Comments: The device covered by the bill includes a new invention called the Segway Human Transporter, which is a two-wheeled, self-propelled motorized scooter that can travel about 12 miles per hour.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2002
lc/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2002

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