

Chapter 252

(House Bill 557)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Scooter and Electric Low Speed Scooter Sharing Companies – Nonvisual Access

FOR the purpose of requiring that motor scooter and electric low speed scooter sharing companies include on each motor scooter or electric low speed scooter made available to the public an embossed tactile ~~phone number~~ display with contact information through which certain individuals may contact the company; requiring that motor ~~or scooter~~ and electric low speed scooter sharing companies provide certain individuals with certain nonvisual access that is consistent with certain federal standards; providing for a delayed effective date; defining certain terms; and generally relating to nonvisual access for motor scooter and electric low speed scooter sharing companies.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Transportation
 Section 11-117.2 and 11-134.5
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Transportation
 Section 18.7-101 and 18.7-102 to be under the new title “Title 18.7. Motor Scooter
 and Electric Low Speed Scooter Sharing Companies”
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation11-117.2.

(a) “Electric low speed scooter” means a vehicle that:

(1) Is designed to transport only the operator;

(2) Weighs less than 100 pounds;

(3) Has single wheels in tandem or a combination of one or two wheels at the front and rear of the vehicle;

(4) Is equipped with handlebars and a platform designed to be stood on while riding;

(5) Is solely powered by an electric motor and human power; and

(6) Is capable of operating at a speed of up to 20 miles per hour.

(b) “Electric low speed scooter” does not include:

(1) An electric personal assistive mobility device; or

(2) An electric wheelchair or other mobility aid used by a disabled individual.

11-134.5.

(a) “Motor scooter” means a nonpedal vehicle that:

(1) Has a seat for the operator;

(2) Has two wheels, of which one is 10 inches or more in diameter;

(3) Has a step-through chassis;

(4) Has a motor:

(i) With a rating of 2.7 brake horsepower or less; or

(ii) If the motor is an internal combustion engine, with a capacity of 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement or less; and

(5) Is equipped with an automatic transmission.

(b) “Motor scooter” does not include:

(1) An electric low speed scooter; or

(2) A vehicle that has been manufactured for off-road use, including a motorcycle and an all-terrain vehicle.

TITLE 18.7. MOTOR SCOOTER AND ELECTRIC LOW SPEED SCOOTER SHARING COMPANIES.

18.7-101.

(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “MOTOR ~~OR~~ AND ELECTRIC LOW SPEED SCOOTER SHARING COMPANY” MEANS A PERSON THAT MAKES MOTOR SCOOTERS OR ELECTRIC LOW SPEED SCOOTERS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR LEASE ON A SHORT-TERM BASIS.

(C) “NONVISUAL ACCESS” MEANS THE ABILITY THROUGH KEYBOARD CONTROL, SYNTHESIZED SPEECH, OR OTHER METHODS NOT REQUIRING SIGHT TO RECEIVE, USE, AND MANIPULATE INFORMATION AND OPERATE CONTROLS NECESSARY TO ACCESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

18.7-102.

(A) A MOTOR ~~OR~~ AND ELECTRIC LOW SPEED SCOOTER SHARING COMPANY SHALL INCLUDE ON EACH MOTOR SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC LOW SPEED SCOOTER MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AN EMBOSSED TACTILE ~~PHONE NUMBER~~ DISPLAY WITH CONTACT INFORMATION THROUGH WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS BLIND OR HAS A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT MAY CONTACT THE COMPANY.

(B) A MOTOR ~~OR~~ AND ELECTRIC LOW SPEED SCOOTER SHARING COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES NONVISUAL ACCESS TO ITS WEBSITE AND MOBILE APPLICATION IN A WAY THAT:

(1) PROVIDES FULL AND EQUAL ACCESSIBILITY TO THE INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES SO THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS ABLE TO ACQUIRE THE SAME INFORMATION, ENGAGE IN THE SAME INTERACTIONS, AND ENJOY THE SAME SERVICES AS USERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES, WITH SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT EASE OF USE; AND

(2) IS CONSISTENT WITH THE STANDARDS OF § 508 OF THE FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~July 1, 2020~~ January 1, 2021.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.