

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO
Legislative District 15
Montgomery County

Environment and Transportation Committee

Chair
Motor Vehicle and Transportation
Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 223
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3186 • 301-858-3186
800-492-7122 Ext. 3186
David.Fraser.Hidalgo@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB595
Vehicle Laws – Personal Delivery Devices – Standards and Requirements
Testimony by Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo
February 11, 2021- The Environment and Transportation Committee

E-commerce has expanded rapidly over the last decade; with this expansion we are seeing an emergence of new technology that offers innovative delivery solutions. HB595 introduces definitions for Personal Delivery Devices (PDDs), a cutting edge electric device that will give consumers another delivery option while reducing the carbon footprint of the delivery.

This bill will allow PDDs to operate in the state, making Maryland the 13th state to do so (Arizona, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin). PDDs are environmentally friendly and can ease traffic congestion as delivery vehicles are taken off the road and replaced by electric delivery systems.

Facts about PDDS in HB595:

- Operated primarily on sidewalks and crosswalks
- Intended primarily for the transport of property on public rights of way
- Weighs no more than 200 pounds, excluding cargo
- Capable of navigating with or without active control or monitoring
- May not interfere with traffic, block public rights of way, or transport hazardous materials that could pose an unreasonable risk
- May not exceed a speed of 3.5 miles per hour
- Must be visibly marked with an identifying number and contact information
- Any information must also be marked in Braille lettering
- Must be able to come to a controlled stop

- Must carry a general liability insurance policy
- Must be equipped with lighting devices

HB595 is a bill that will lay the groundwork for PDDs in Maryland. I ask you for a favorable report for HB595 to pave the way for a mechanism to provide fast and accurate delivery services while considering Maryland's environment.