AN ACT specifying the status of the public right of way in relation to a Publicly Accessible Electric Scooter Sharing System; providing for denial, suspension, or revocation of a Publicly Accessible Electric Scooter Sharing System Permit under specified circumstances; providing for a hearing before final action; and generally relating to electric scooters on public rights-of-way in Howard County.

NOTE: [text in brackets] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.
Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County Code is amended as follows:

By adding Title 21 “Traffic Control and Transportation”
Subtitle 8. “Publicly Accessible Electric Scooter Sharing System Permit”

Section 21.805A. Public right-of-way; permit denial, suspension, or revocation.

Title 21. Traffic Control and Transportation.

Section 21.805A. Public Right-of-Way; Permit Denial, Suspension, or Revocation.

(A) Public Right-of-Way.

(1) (1) Operation of a Publicly Accessible Electric Scooter Sharing System is a commercial enterprise and is a privilege, not a right, that is always subordinate to the public use and enjoyment of the public right-of-way.

(ii) Operations under a Publicly Accessible Electric Scooter Sharing System shall not create obstructions of the public right-of-way that impede or interfere with safe and accessible pedestrian use of the public right-of-way.

(2) A unit of county government or a designee of a unit may remove a scooter from the public right-of-way because of an emergency or if the public right-of-way is wholly or partly obstructed by the scooter.

(B) Grounds for Permit Denial, Suspension, or Revocation.

The Administrator of the Office of Transportation may deny, suspend, or revoke a permit sought or issued under this subtitle if the applicant or permit holder:

(1) knowingly makes a false representation or false statement in an application, report, or other document that the applicant or permit holder submits or is required to keep under this subtitle;

(2) is convicted under the laws of the United States or of any state of:

(i) a felony; or

(ii) a misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and qualification of the permit holder to engage in the activities allowed under the permit;

(3) violates subsection (a)(1) of this section or any other provision of this subtitle or violates any term or condition of the permit;
(4) FAILS TO MAINTAIN THE INSURANCE OR BOND REQUIRED BY THIS SUBTITLE; OR
(5) OPERATES OR ATTEMPTS TO OPERATE A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ELECTRIC SCOOTER
SHARING SYSTEM WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHOUT HOLDING A PERMIT TO DO SO.
(C) HEARING,
(1) BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION TAKES ANY FINAL
ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL GIVE THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM
THE ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR.
(2) NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING SHALL BE SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL TO THE
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF THE PERSON.
(3) THE PERSON MAY BE REPRESENTED AT THE HEARING BY COUNSEL.
(4) IF, AFTER NOTICE, THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM THE ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED
DECLINES TO PARTICIPATE IN A HEARING OR FAILS TO APPEAR, THE ADMINISTRATOR MAY,
NEVERTHELESS, HEAR AND DETERMINE THE MATTER.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,
Maryland that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.
This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on July 7, 2020.  

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council