Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices

This Act establishes operating requirements and restrictions for electric personal assistive mobility devices, as defined in the language of the Act. It also establishes an electric personal assistive mobility devices oversight committee to study the integration of electric personal assistive mobility devices with pedestrian traffic. The devices that are referenced in this Act are commonly known as “Segway” devices.

Submitted as:
New Hampshire
Chapter 4 of 2002
Status: enacted into law in 2002.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

Section 1. [Short Title.]

Section 2. [Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices: Purpose.]

(A) This Act responds to a major innovation in personal travel for the citizens of the state. The “electric personal assistive mobility device” employs advances in technology and energy efficiency to fully and safely integrate the user with pedestrian transportation, while enabling people to travel farther and carry more without use of traditional vehicles, thereby promoting gains in productivity, minimizing environmental impact, and facilitating better use of public ways.

(B) Comprehensive legislation regulating use of the “electric personal assistive mobility device” is required, in light of its unique and innovative capabilities, to foster its successful introduction and integration with other forms of transportation.

Section 3. [Definition: Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices.]

“Electric personal assistive mobility device” or “EPAMD” means a self-balancing, [two (2)] non-tandem-wheeled device designed to transport only one person, solely powered by an electric propulsion system, with a maximum speed of less than [twenty (20)] miles per hour.

Section 4. [Applicable Law.] An EPAMD shall not be considered a “vehicle” within the meaning of the law of this state.

Section 5. [Equipment.] An EPAMD shall be equipped with front, rear, and side reflectors; a system that when employed will enable the operator to bring the device to a controlled stop; and, if the EPAMD is operated between [one half (1/2)] hour after sunset and [one half (1/2)] hour before sunrise, a lamp emitting a white light which, while the EPAMD is in motion, sufficiently illuminates the area in front of the operator.

Section 6. [Operation Permitted on Sidewalks and Roadways.] An operator of an EPAMD shall have the rights and duties of pedestrians prescribed in [insert citation].

Section 7. [Special Rules for Operation.]

(A) A person operating an EPAMD on a sidewalk or roadway, shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with, and shall yield the right-of-way to, persons traveling on foot.

(B) No EPAMD shall be operated at a speed greater than [fifteen (15)] miles per hour.

Section 8. [Parking.]
(A) An EPAMD may be parked on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic control device.

(B) An EPAMD shall not be parked on a roadway in such a manner as to prevent the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.

(C) In all other respects, any person operating an EPAMD shall conform with provisions of law regulating the parking of vehicles.

(D) All violations of parking restrictions shall be deemed the responsibility of the owner of the EPAMD. The owner shall be presumed to be in control of the EPAMD at the time of the parking violation, and no evidence of actual control or culpability need be proved as an element of the offense.

Section 9. [Hazardous Materials.] No person shall carry or transport on an EPAMD hazardous materials.

Section 10. [Additional Regulations.] A city or town shall have the authority to regulate the operation of EPAMDs within its limits. The provisions of Sections 5, 6, and 7 of this Act shall not supersede the provisions of any local ordinance.

Section 11. [Violations.] Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall be guilty of a violation.

Section 12. [Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices Oversight Committee.] (A) There is established the electric personal assistive mobility device oversight committee consisting of the following members:

(I) [Three (3)] members of the [Senate], appointed by the [President of the Senate].

(II) [Three (3)] members of the [House of Representatives], appointed by the [Speaker of the House of Representatives].

(III) The [commissioner of safety], or designee.

(IV) One municipal official, appointed by the [President of the Senate].

(V) One municipal official, appointed by the [Speaker of the House of Representatives].

(B) The oversight committee shall study the integration of electric personal assistive mobility devices with pedestrian traffic in the state, including such rules of operation as may be appropriate, and any other issues relating thereto.

(C) The members of the oversight committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. [Five (5)] members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(D) The oversight committee shall submit a report on or before [November 1, 2002] to the [Senate President], the [Speaker of the House of Representatives], the [Senate Clerk], the [House Clerk], the [Governor], and the state library. The duties of the oversight committee shall terminate upon submission of the report.

Section 13. [Severability.] [Insert severability clause.]

Section 14. [Repealer.] [Insert repealer clause.]

Section 15. [Effective Date.] [Insert effective date.]