

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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SENATE BILL 1144
Commerce Committee Substitute Adopted 7/9/02

Short Title: Two-Wheeled Mobility Devices. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

June 3, 2002

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DEFINE AND AUTHORIZE THE USE OF NONTANDEM
3 TWO-WHEELED PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-4.01(7a) reads as rewritten:

6 "~~(7a)~~(7b) Employer. – Any person who owns or leases a commercial motor
7 vehicle or assigns a person to drive a commercial motor vehicle."

8 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-4.01 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

9 "(7a) Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device. — A self-balancing
10 nontandem two-wheeled device, designed to transport one person, with
11 a propulsion system that limits the maximum speed of the device to 15
12 miles per hour or less."

13 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-4.01(49) reads as rewritten:

14 "(49) Vehicle. – Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property
15 is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices
16 moved by human power or used exclusively upon fixed rails or tracks;
17 provided, that for the purposes of this Chapter bicycles shall be
18 deemed vehicles and every rider of a bicycle upon a highway shall be
19 subject to the provisions of this Chapter applicable to the driver of a
20 vehicle except those which by their nature can have no application.
21 This term shall not include a device which is designed for and intended
22 to be used as a means of transportation for a person with a mobility
23 impairment, or who uses the device for mobility enhancement, is
24 suitable for use both inside and outside a building, including on
25 sidewalks, and is limited by design to 15 miles per hour when the
26 device is being operated by a person with a mobility impairment, or
27 who uses the device for mobility enhancement. This term does not
28 include an electric personal assistive mobility device as defined in G.S.
29 20-4.01(7a)."

1 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-51 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

2 "(14) Electric personal assistive mobility devices as defined in G.S.
3 20-4.01(7a)."

4 **SECTION 5.** Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by
5 adding a new Part to read:

6 "Part 11C. Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices.

7 "**§ 20-175.6. Electric personal assistive mobility devices.**

8 (a) Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device. – As defined in G.S.
9 20-4.01(7a).

10 (b) Exempt From Registration. – As provided in G.S. 20-51.

11 (c) Use of Device. – An electric personal assistive mobility device may be
12 operated on public highways with posted speeds of 25 miles per hour or less, sidewalks,
13 and bicycle paths. A person operating an electric personal assistive mobility device on a
14 sidewalk, roadway, or bicycle path shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other
15 human-powered devices. A person operating an electric personal assistive mobility
16 device shall have all rights and duties of a pedestrian."

17 **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.