



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 3/27/2017

Bill Number

House Bill 17-1044

Sponsors

Representative Mitsch Bush
Senator Todd

Short Title

*Autocycle Characteristics &
Safety Requirements*

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor and became effective March 23, 2017.

Background

According to current Colorado law, an autocycle is a three-wheeled motor vehicle in which the driver and each passenger rides in an enclosed seating area that is:

- equipped with safety belts for all occupants, which must be used unless exempted by law;
- airbag protection; and
- a hard-top enclosure that protects occupants from the elements and that supports the vehicles weight without harming the occupants when the vehicle is resting on the enclosure.

Autocyclists are not required to wear a helmet, but are required to have a drivers license and an autocycle license plate. Sixteen states regulate autocycles as a motorcycle, two states as a non-motorcycle, and the remaining 32 states as a motorcycle subtype.

House Action

House Transportation & Energy Committee (February 1, 2017). At the hearing, representatives from the Colorado State Patrol, Polaris, and the Powersports Dealer Association of Colorado testified in support of the bill. Representatives of ABATE of Colorado, the Children's Hospital Colorado, and AAA Colorado testified in a neutral position. A representative of the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles answered committee questions. The committee adopted amendments L.001 and L.002, and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the

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Whole.

Amendment L.001 clarified that autocycles are a type of motorcycle. Amendment L.002 required that autocycles comply with safety belt laws and changed the bill title.

House second reading (February 6, 2017). The House adopted the House Transportation and Energy committee report. The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

House third reading (February 7, 2017). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House consideration of Senate amendments (March 13, 2017). The House concurred with Senate amendment and repassed the bill.

Senate Action

Senate Transportation Committee (February 28, 2017). At the hearing, representatives of the Colorado State Patrol, Polaris Industries, the Power Sports Dealers Association of Colorado, and a person representing himself testified in support of the bill. Representatives of Children's Hospital of Colorado and ABATE Colorado testified in a neutral position.

The committee adopted amendments L.003 and L.004, and referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole with the recommendation that it be placed on the consent calendar. Amendment L.003 made clear that autocycle drivers do not need a motorcycle endorsement. Amendment L.004 clarified that autocycles do not need specific autocycle plate, but can use motorcycle license plates.

Senate second reading (March 3, 2017). The Senate adopted the Senate Transportation committee report and passed the bill with no additional amendments.

Senate third reading (March 6, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no additional amendments.