A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

Electric scooters, which are lightweight, motorized transportation devices, with handlebars, that obtain a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour when powered by motor, are currently regulated as toy vehicles. Toy vehicles are authorized for use on sidewalks, but not for use on roadways.

The bill excludes electric scooters from the definition of "toy vehicle" and includes electric scooters in the definition of "motor vehicle", thus authorizing the use of electric scooters on roadways. The bill affords riders of electric scooters the same rights and duties that riders
of electrical assisted bicycles have under the laws of the state.

Section 5 of the bill authorizes a local government to regulate the operation of an electric scooter in a manner that is no more restrictive than the manner in which the local government may regulate an electrical assisted bicycle.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-1-102, amend (48.5)(b), (58), (103.5)(c), and (112); and add (28.8) as follows:

42-1-102. Definitions. As used in articles 1 to 4 of this title 42, unless the context otherwise requires:

(28.8) (a) "ELECTRIC SCOOTER" MEANS A DEVICE:

(I) WEIGHING LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED POUNDS;

(II) WITH HANDLEBARS AND AN ELECTRIC MOTOR;

(III) THAT IS POWERED BY AN ELECTRIC MOTOR; AND

(IV) THAT HAS A MAXIMUM SPEED OF TWENTY MILES PER HOUR ON

A PAVED LEVEL SURFACE WHEN POWERED SOLELY BY THE ELECTRIC

MOTOR.

(b) "ELECTRIC SCOOTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ELECTRICAL

ASSISTED BICYCLE, EPAMD, MOTORCYCLE, OR LOW-POWER SCOOTER.

(48.5) (b) "Low-power scooter" shall not include a toy vehicle, bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, wheelchair, or any device designed to assist mobility impaired people WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS who use pedestrian rights-of-way.

(58) "Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and that is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways or a low-speed electric vehicle; except that the term does not include electrical assisted bicycles, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, low-power
scooters, wheelchairs, or vehicles moved solely by human power. For the purposes of the offenses described in sections 42-2-128, 42-4-1301, 42-4-1301.1, and 42-4-1401 for farm tractors and off-highway vehicles, as defined in section 33-14.5-101 (3), operated on streets and highways, "motor vehicle" includes a farm tractor or an off-highway vehicle that is not otherwise classified as a motor vehicle. For the purposes of sections 42-2-127, 42-2-127.7, 42-2-128, 42-2-138, 42-2-206, 42-4-1301, and 42-4-1301.1, "motor vehicle" includes a low-power scooter.

(103.5) (c) "Toy vehicle" does not include ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, off-highway vehicles, or snowmobiles.

(112) "Vehicle" means a device that is capable of moving itself, or of being moved, from place to place upon wheels or endless tracks. "Vehicle" includes without limitation, a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, or EPAMD, but does not include a wheelchair, off-highway vehicle, snowmobile, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry designed primarily or exclusively for use and used in agricultural operations or any device moved exclusively over stationary rails or tracks or designed to move primarily through the air.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-103, amend (1)(b)(I) as follows:

42-3-103. Registration required - exemptions. (1) (b) This subsection (1) does not apply to the following:

(I) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, or other human-powered vehicle;

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-109, amend (7) and (11) as follows:

42-4-109. Low-power scooters, animals, skis, skates, and toy
vehicles on highways. (7) For the sake of uniformity and bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, and low-power scooter safety throughout the state, the department in cooperation with the department of transportation shall prepare and make available to all local jurisdictions for distribution to bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, and low-power scooter riders a digest of state regulations explaining and illustrating the rules of the road, equipment requirements, and traffic control devices that are applicable to such the riders and their bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, or low-power scooters. Local authorities may supplement this digest with a leaflet describing any additional regulations of a local nature that apply within their respective jurisdictions.

(11) Where suitable bike paths, horseback trails, or other trails have been established on the right-of-way or parallel to and within one-fourth mile of the right-of-way of heavily traveled streets and highways, the department of transportation may, subject to the provisions of section 43-2-135, C.R.S., by resolution or order entered in its minutes, and local authorities may, where suitable bike paths, horseback trails, or other trails have been established on the right-of-way or parallel to it within four hundred fifty feet of the right-of-way of heavily traveled streets, by ordinance, determine and designate, upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, those heavily traveled streets and highways upon which shall be prohibited any bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, animal rider, animal-drawn conveyance, or other class or kind of nonmotorized traffic that is found to be incompatible with the normal and safe movement of traffic, and, upon such a determination, the department of transportation or local authority
shall erect appropriate official signs giving notice thereof of the prohibition; except that, with respect to controlled access highways, section 42-4-1010 (3) applies. When such official signs are erected, no person shall not violate any of the instructions contained thereon on the official signs.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-111, amend (1)(dd); and add (1)(ff) as follows:

42-4-111. Powers of local authorities. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, this article does not prevent local authorities, with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction and within the reasonable exercise of the police power, from:

(dd) Authorizing or prohibiting the use of an electrical assisted bicycle or electric scooter on a bike or pedestrian path in accordance with section 42-4-1412;

(ff) Regulating the operation of an electric scooter, consistent with this title 42.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-221, amend (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8); and add (8.5) as follows:

42-4-221. Bicycle, electric scooter, and personal mobility device equipment. (1) No other provision of this part 2 and no provision of part 3 of this article shall apply ARTICLE 4 APPLIES to a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD or to equipment for use on a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD except those provisions in this article made specifically applicable to such a vehicle.

(2) Every bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD in use at the times described in section 42-4-204 shall be
equipped with a lamp on the front emitting a white light visible from a
distance of at least five hundred feet to the front.

(3) Every bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER,
or EPAMD shall be equipped with a red reflector of a type approved by
the department, which shall be visible for six hundred feet to the rear
when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor
vehicle.

(4) Every bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER,
or EPAMD when in use at the times described in section 42-4-204 shall
be equipped with reflective material of sufficient size and reflectivity to
be visible from both sides for six hundred feet when directly in front of
lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle or, in lieu of such
reflective material, with a lighted lamp visible from both sides from a
distance of at least five hundred feet.

(5) A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, or
EPAMD or its rider may be equipped with lights or reflectors in addition
to those required by subsections (2) to (4) of this section.

(6) A bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC
shall not be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a bicycle, or
electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER, any siren or whistle.

(7) Every bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC
scooter shall be equipped with a brake or brakes that will enable its
rider to stop the bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC
scooter within twenty-five feet from a speed of ten miles per hour on
dry, level, clean pavement.

(8) A person engaged in the business of selling bicycles, or
electrical assisted bicycles, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS at retail shall not sell
any bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER unless the bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER has an identifying number permanently stamped or cast on its frame.

(8.5) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY REGULATE THE OPERATION OF AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER IN A MANNER THAT IS NO MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THE MANNER IN WHICH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY REGULATE THE OPERATION OF A CLASS I ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-224, amend (3) as follows:

42-4-224. Horns or warning devices. (3) No A bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, or low-power scooter shall NOT be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon such vehicle A BICYCLE, ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, OR LOW-POWER SCOOTER, a siren or whistle.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-234, amend (1)(a) and (1)(c) as follows:

42-4-234. Slow-moving vehicles - display of emblem. (1) (a) All machinery, equipment, and vehicles, except bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, and other human-powered vehicles, designed to operate or normally operated at a speed of less than twenty-five miles per hour on a public highway shall MUST display a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear.

(c) Bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, and other human-powered vehicles MAY, BUT NEED NOT, display the emblem specified in this subsection (1).

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 42-4-503 as follows:
42-4-503. Projecting loads on passenger vehicles. No passenger-type vehicle, except with regard to the operation of a motorcycle, a bicycle, or an electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter, a person shall not operate a passenger-type vehicle on any highway with any load carried thereon extending beyond the line of the fenders on the left side of such vehicle nor extending more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right side thereof. Any person who violates this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-802, amend (3) as follows:

42-4-802. Pedestrians’ right-of-way in crosswalks. (3) No A pedestrian shall not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and ride a bicycle, ride an electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter, or walk or run into the path of a moving vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1204, amend (4) as follows:

42-4-1204. Stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in specified places. (4) (a) Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section does not prohibit persons from parking bicycles or electrical assisted bicycles on sidewalks in accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1412 (11)(a) and (11)(b).

(b) Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of this section does not prohibit persons from parking two or more bicycles, or electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters abreast in
accordance with the provisions of section 42-4-1412 (11)(d).

  (c) Paragraphs (a), (c), and (d) of subsection (2) SUBSECTIONS
(2)(a), (2)(c), AND (2)(d) of this section shall DO not apply to bicycles or
electrical assisted bicycles A BICYCLE, ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE, OR
ELECTRIC SCOOTER parked on sidewalks A SIDEWALK in accordance with
section 42-4-1412 (11)(a) and (11)(b).

SECTION 11. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1401, amend
(1) as follows:

42-4-1401. Reckless driving - penalty. (1) A person who drives
a motor vehicle, bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER,
or low-power scooter in such a manner as to indicate either a wanton or
a willful disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of
reckless driving. A person convicted of reckless driving of a bicycle, or
electrical assisted bicycle, shall OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER IS not be
subject to the provisions of section 42-2-127.

SECTION 12. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1402, amend
(1) as follows:

42-4-1402. Careless driving - penalty. (1) A person who drives
a motor vehicle, bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER,
or low-power scooter in a careless and imprudent manner, without due
regard for the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic, and use of the streets
and highways and all other attendant circumstances, is guilty of careless
driving. A person convicted of careless driving of a bicycle, or electrical
assisted bicycle, shall OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER IS not be subject to the
provisions of section 42-2-127.

SECTION 13. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1407.5,
amend (3)(g) as follows:
42-4-1407.5. Splash guards - when required. (3) This section does not apply to:

(g) Bicycles, or electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters.

SECTION 14. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1412, amend (1), (3), (4), (5)(a) introductory portion, (5)(c) introductory portion, (6), (7), (8)(a), (8)(b), (9), (10)(a), (10)(b), (10)(c), (11), (12)(b), and (13) as follows:

42-4-1412. Operation of bicycles, electric scooters, and other human-powered vehicles. (1) A person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter has all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under this article 4, except as to special regulations in this article 4, except as provided in section 42-4-1412.5, and except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Said bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter riders shall comply with the rules set forth in this section and section 42-4-221, and, when using streets and highways within incorporated cities and towns, are subject to local ordinances regulating the operation of bicycles, and electrical assisted bicycles, and electric scooters as provided in section 42-4-111. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this article 4, when a county or municipality has adopted an ordinance or resolution pursuant to section 42-4-1412.5, riders are subject to the local ordinance or resolution.

(3) No A bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.

(4) No A person riding upon any A bicycle, or electrical assisted
(5) (a) Any person operating a bicycle, or an electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride in the right-hand lane, subject to the following conditions:

(c) A person operating a bicycle, or an electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER upon a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near to the left-hand curb or edge of such the roadway as judged safe by the bicyclist RIDER, subject to the following conditions:

(6) (a) Persons riding bicycles, or electrical assisted bicycles, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

(b) Persons riding bicycles, or electrical assisted bicycles, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

(7) A person operating a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.

(8) (a) A person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER intending to turn left shall follow a course described in sections 42-4-901 (1), 42-4-903, and 42-4-1007 or may make a left turn in the manner prescribed in paragraph (b) of this subsection (8) SUBSECTION (8)(b) OF THIS SECTION.
(b) A person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter intending to turn left shall approach the turn as closely as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. After proceeding across the intersecting roadway to the far corner of the curb or intersection of the roadway edges, the bicyclist rider shall stop, as much as practicable, out of the way of traffic. After stopping, the bicyclist rider shall yield to any traffic proceeding in either direction along the roadway that the bicyclist rider had been using. After yielding and complying with any official traffic control device or police officer regulating traffic on the highway along which the bicyclist rider intends to proceed, the bicyclist rider may proceed in the new direction.

(9) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (9), every person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall signal the intention to turn or stop in accordance with section 42-4-903; except that a person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter may signal a right turn with the right arm extended horizontally.

(b) A signal of intention to turn right or left when required shall be given continuously during not less than the last one hundred feet traveled by the bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter before turning and shall be given while the bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter is stopped waiting to turn. A signal by hand and arm need not be given continuously if the hand is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter.

(10) (a) A person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter upon and along a sidewalk or pathway or across a
roadway upon and along a crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such the pedestrian. A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter in a crosswalk shall do so in a manner that is safe for pedestrians.

(b) A person shall not ride a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter upon and along a sidewalk or pathway or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk where such the use of bicycles, or electrical assisted bicycles, or electric scooters is prohibited by official traffic control devices or local ordinances. A person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter shall dismount before entering any crosswalk where required by official traffic control devices or local ordinances.

(c) A person riding or walking a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter upon and along a sidewalk or pathway or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances, including but not limited to, the rights and duties granted and required by section 42-4-802.

(11) (a) A person may park a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic control device or local ordinance.

(b) A bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter parked on a sidewalk shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic.

(c) A bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter may be parked on the road at any angle to the curb or edge of the road at
any location where parking is allowed.

(d) A bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER may be parked on the road abreast of another such bicycle or ONE OR MORE bicycles OR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS near the side of the road or any location where parking is allowed in such a manner as does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

(e) In all other respects, bicycles, or electrical assisted bicycles, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS parked anywhere on a highway shall MUST conform to the provisions of part 12 of this article ARTICLE 4 regulating the parking of vehicles.

(12) (b) If any person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, who OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER violates any provision of this article ARTICLE 4 other than this section which THAT is applicable to such a vehicle and for which a penalty is specified, shall be THE PERSON IS subject to the same specified penalty as any other vehicle; except that section 42-2-127 shall DOES not apply.

(13) Upon request, the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction shall complete a report concerning an injury or death incident that involves a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER on the roadways of the state, even if such THE accident does not involve a motor vehicle.

SECTION 15. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1412.5, amend (1)(a), (1)(c), and (1)(d); and add (2.5) as follows:

42-4-1412.5. Local adoption of alternative regulation of bicycles and electric scooters approaching intersections - alternative regulation described - validity of existing local resolution - definitions. (1) A county or municipality may adopt an ordinance or
resolution implementing this section. If a county or municipality adopts an ordinance or resolution pursuant to this section, the ordinance or resolution must specify the following:

(a) A person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter and approaching an intersection of a roadway with a stop sign shall slow down and, if required for safety, stop before entering the intersection. If a stop is not required for safety, the person shall slow to a reasonable speed and yield the right-of-way to any traffic or pedestrian in or approaching the intersection. After the person has slowed to a reasonable speed and yielded the right-of-way if required, the person may cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping.

(c) A person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter and approaching an intersection of a roadway with an illuminated red traffic control signal shall stop before entering the intersection and shall yield to all other traffic and pedestrians. Once the person has yielded, the person may cautiously proceed in the same direction through the intersection or make a right-hand turn. When a red traffic control signal is illuminated, a person shall not proceed through the intersection or turn right if an oncoming vehicle is turning or preparing to turn left in front of the person.

(d) A person riding a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter approaching an intersection of a roadway with an illuminated red traffic control signal may make a left-hand turn only if turning onto a one-way street and only after stopping and yielding to other traffic and pedestrians. However, a person shall not turn left if a vehicle is traveling in the same direction as the person and the vehicle is turning
or preparing to turn left. If the person is not turning left onto a one-way street, the person shall not make a left-hand turn at an intersection while a red traffic control signal is illuminated.

(2.5) **Nothing in this section affects the validity of an ordinance or resolution that a municipality, county, or city and county adopted pursuant to this section if the ordinance or resolution:**

(a) **Was adopted before the effective date of this subsection (2.5); and**

(b) **Applies to electric scooters.**

**SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-6-102, **amend** (10)(a) as follows:

42-6-102. **Definitions.** As used in this part 1, unless the context otherwise requires:

(10) "Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways, including trailers, semitrailers, and trailer coaches, without motive power. "Motor vehicle" does not include the following:

(a) A low-power scooter OR AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER, as BOTH TERMS ARE defined in section 42-1-102;

**SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-7-103, **amend** the introductory portion and (8) as follows:

42-7-103. **Definitions.** As used in this article **article 7**, unless the context otherwise requires:

(8) (a) "Motor vehicle" means **every** a vehicle **which** **that** is self-propelled, including trailers and semitrailers designed for use with
such vehicles and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires but not operated upon rails.

(b) "MOTOR VEHICLE" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER, as defined in Section 42-1-102.

SECTION 18. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-3.5-109, amend (1) as follows:

18-3.5-109. Careless driving resulting in unlawful termination of pregnancy - penalty. (1) A person who drives a motor vehicle, bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, ELECTRIC SCOOTER, or low-power scooter in a careless and imprudent manner, without due regard for the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic, and use of the streets and highways and all other attendant circumstances and causes the unlawful termination of a pregnancy of a woman is guilty of careless driving, resulting in unlawful termination of pregnancy. A person convicted of careless driving of a bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle, OR ELECTRIC SCOOTER resulting in the unlawful termination of pregnancy shall not be subject to the provisions of section 42-2-127. C.R.S.

SECTION 19. Applicability. This act applies to conduct occurring on or after the effective date of this act.

SECTION 20. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.