

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill regulates motorized foot scooters, which are vehicles with wheels up to 10" in diameter and handlebars, with or without a seat or saddle, with electric or gasoline engines. Operators of motorized foot scooters would generally have the same rights and duties as bicyclists. The minimum age for operation would be 12 years and operators would be required to wear helmets. Operation on sidewalks, except when entering or leaving adjacent property, would be prohibited.

Section

- 1 **Business signs.** Amends the requirements of a food business in order to be eligible for a sign under the business sign panel program, by deleting the requirement that such a business must serve meals prepared on the premises.
- 2 **Exemption.** Exempts motorized foot scooters from vehicle registration and taxation.
- 3 **Definition.** Defines "motorized foot scooter" as a device that:
 - has one or two 10" or smaller wheels
 - has handlebars
 - may be sat or stood upon by the operator
 - has an internal combustion engine or electric motor capable of propelling the device

Section

with or without human propulsion

Excludes electric personal assistive mobility devices (segways), motorized bicycles, electric-assisted bicycles, and motorcycles.

4 Regulations. Regulates motorized foot scooters.

Subd. 1. Application of traffic laws. Makes operators of motorized foot scooters subject to same rights and duties as bicycle operators, except where specific regulations for motorized foot scooters apply or where bicycle provisions are inherently inapplicable.

Subd. 2. Sidewalks, passengers. Prohibits operation of motorized foot scooters on sidewalks except when entering or leaving adjacent property. Prohibits operation with a passenger.

Subd. 3. Age. Prohibits persons under age 12 from operating motorized foot scooters.

Subd. 4. Headgear. Requires persons operating motorized foot scooters to wear headgear that complies with Department of Public Safety standards.

Subd. 5. Lighting. Requires motorized foot scooters to be equipped with headlight and taillight that meet department standards while being operated at a time when lights are required.

Subd. 6. Operation. Requires persons operating motorized foot scooters to ride as close as practicable to right-hand curb or edge or roadway, except when passing or making a left turn, or when avoiding impediments or unsafe conditions.

Allows operation of motorized foot scooters on bicycle paths, bicycle lanes, bicycle trails, and bikeways, unless (1) the path, lane, trail or bikeway has not been set aside exclusively for nonmotorized traffic, or (2) motorized foot scooters have been prohibited by local authorities on the path, lane, trail, or bikeway.