

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 189

SESSION: 2006 Regular Session

TOPIC: Neighborhood electric vehicles

Date: May 9, 2006

Analyst: Matt Burress (651-296-5045)

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This act defines a “neighborhood electric vehicle” as a four-wheeled electric vehicle that has a top speed of between 20 and 25 miles per hour. General vehicle requirements for registration, registration tax, and title are applied to neighborhood electric vehicles. The act also makes neighborhood electric vehicles subject to traffic regulations, and allows their operation on public roads and highways that have a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less if federal equipment standards are met.

The act is effective August 1, 2006.

Section

- 1 Passenger automobile.** Includes a neighborhood electric vehicle as a passenger automobile in the vehicle registration chapter. Passenger automobiles must be registered and are subject to the registration tax.
- 2 Neighborhood electric vehicle.** Adds a definition of neighborhood electric vehicles to the vehicle registration chapter (referencing the definition in section 4).
- 3 Neighborhood electric vehicle; certificate required.** Requires that a neighborhood electric vehicle be titled in the same manner as with other vehicles. Prevents the registrar of motor vehicles from issuing a title if the vehicle does not have (1) a vehicle identification number, and (2) a manufacturers certificate of origin identifying it as a neighborhood electric vehicle.
- 4 Neighborhood electric vehicle.** Defines “neighborhood electric vehicle” as an electrically powered motor vehicle with four wheels and a maximum speed of between 20 and 25 miles

per hour on a flat surface. Because it is classified as a motor vehicle, it is subject to the same traffic regulations as other vehicles.

- 5 **Neighborhood electric vehicles.** Allows neighborhood electric vehicles to be operated only on public streets or highways that have a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less, if the vehicle meets federal equipment standards (including headlamps, tail-lamps, brake lights, a seat belt, and a vehicle identification number). A road authority may further restrict its use on streets. A neighborhood electric vehicle may not be used to take a driver's licensing exam.