

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill creates a new motor vehicle category of “autocycle,” which is defined as a specialized type of three-wheeled motorcycle, and it permits autocycle operation with a driver’s license and no motorcycle endorsement. The bill also makes various technical and conforming changes (primarily to address the characteristics of autocycles that differ from a typical motorcycle, such as car-like seating instead of a saddle, and a cabin space with floorboards instead of footrests). It would go into effect August 1, 2016.

Section

- 1 **Autocycle.** Defines “autocycle” for the chapter of Minnesota Statutes on traffic regulations. It is classified as a type of motorcycle, but among its characteristics, autocycles must have three wheels, antilock brakes, a steering wheel (as opposed to handlebars), and bucket-like seating (as opposed to sitting astride a saddle).
- 2 **Motorcycle.** Makes a conforming change, to establish that autocycles are included as a type of motorcycle.
- 3 **Seatbelt requirement.** Requires drivers and passengers to wear seatbelts in autocycles equipped with seatbelts.
- 4 **License endorsement and permit requirements.** Establishes that an autocycle can be operated with a driver’s license, but without a motorcycle endorsement and makes technical changes. A motorcycle endorsement is required under current law for all motorcycles, including ones that are three-wheeled.

Section

- 5** **Vehicle equipment.** Makes a conforming change, to accommodate autocycles in a provision on motorcycle seating requirements. Makes technical changes.
- 6** **Equipment for operator and passenger.** Amends an exception from mandatory helmet use for motorcycle operators under age 18 as well as eye protection for all such operators, so that helmets and eye protection are not required to operate an autocycle that has an enclosed cabin. Makes technical changes.
- 7** **Driving rules.** Makes conforming changes, to accommodate autocycles in provisions that outline motorcycle driver and passenger riding conditions. Clarifies that riding motorcycles two abreast within a lane is permitted only if the vehicles safely fit. Makes technical changes.
- 8** **Autocycle.** Defines “autocycle” for the chapter of Minnesota Statutes on driver licensing, to cross reference the definition in section 1 of the bill.
- 9** **Driver’s license classifications, endorsements, exemptions.** Permits autocycle operation without an endorsement, using any class of driver’s license.