

Pennsylvania Vehicle Code 2014 Update Related to E-Bikes

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VEHICLE CODE (75 PA.C.S.) - NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES, OPERATION OF PEDALCYCLES WITH ELECTRIC ASSIST AND OPERATION OF VEHICLE WITHOUT OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION

Act of Oct. 22, 2014, P.L. 2543, No. 154

Cl. 75

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in financial responsibility, providing for neighborhood electric vehicles; in special vehicles and pedestrians, providing for operation of pedalcycles with electric assist; and, in inspection of vehicles, further providing for operation of vehicle without official certificate of inspection.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The definition of "pedalcycle" in section 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by adding definitions to read:

§ 102. Definitions.

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to specific provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

* * *

(continued on reverse side...)

"Pedalcycle." A vehicle propelled solely by human-powered pedals **or a pedalcycle with electric assist**. The term does not mean a three-wheeled human-powered pedal-driven vehicle with a main driving wheel 20 inches in diameter or under and primarily designed for children six years of age or younger.

"Pedalcycle with electric assist." A vehicle weighing not more than 100 pounds with two or three wheels more than 11 inches in diameter, manufactured or assembled with an electric motor system rated at not more than 750 watts and equipped with operable pedals and capable of a speed not more than 20 miles per hour on a level surface when powered by the motor source only. The term does not include a device specifically designed for use by persons with disabilities.

CAT Comment: This definition states that to qualify as an e-bike, a pedalcycle with electric assist must have pedals (thereby making it different than an electric scooter). Furthermore, it limits the maximum speed to 20 mph.

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Section 2. Title 75 is amended by adding sections to read:

§ 3514. Operation of pedalcycles with electric assist.
No person under 16 years of age shall operate a pedalcycle with electric assist.

Section 4. This act shall take effect as follows:

- (1) The following provisions shall take effect May 1, 2015:
 - (i) The addition of the definition of "neighborhood electric vehicle" in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.
 - (ii) The addition of 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 1788 and 4703(b)(14).
- (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED--The 22nd day of October, A.D. 2014.

TOM CORBETT

CAT Comment on e-bikes: All other vehicle code sections apply to e-bikes. Riding on the sidewalk is illegal in a downtown business district, and ill-advised where pedestrians may be present.

Code on "Neighborhood Electric Vehicles" not relevant to bicycles excluded from this printing.

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