GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2001

S SENATE BILL 1144

Commerce Committee Substitute Adopted 7/9/02 House Committee Substitute Favorable 8/7/02

Short Title: Two-Wheeled Mobility Devices. (Pub	olic)
Sponsors:	
Referred to:	
June 3, 2002	
A BILL TO BE ENTITLED	
AN ACT TO DEFINE AND AUTHORIZE THE USE OF NONTANDI	EM
TWO-WHEELED PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES.	
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:	
SECTION 1. G.S. 20-4.01(7a) reads as rewritten:	
"(7a)(7b) Employer. – Any person who owns or leases a commercial mo	otor
vehicle or assigns a person to drive a commercial motor vehicle."	
SECTION 2. G.S. 20-4.01 is amended by adding a new subdivision to rea	
"(7a) Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device. – A self-balanc	
nontandem two-wheeled device, designed to transport one person, w	
a propulsion system that limits the maximum speed of the device to	15
miles per hour or less."	
SECTION 3. G.S. 20-4.01(49) reads as rewritten:	4
"(49) Vehicle. – Every device in, upon, or by which any person or proper	
is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devi	
moved by human power or used exclusively upon fixed rails or trace	
provided, that for the purposes of this Chapter bicycles shall deemed vehicles and every rider of a bicycle upon a highway shall	
subject to the provisions of this Chapter applicable to the driver of	
vehicle except those which by their nature can have no applicati	
This term shall not include a device which is designed for and intended	
to be used as a means of transportation for a person with a mobil	
impairment, or who uses the device for mobility enhancement,	
suitable for use both inside and outside a building, including	
sidewalks, and is limited by design to 15 miles per hour when	
device is being operated by a person with a mobility impairment,	
who uses the device for mobility enhancement. This term shall	

1	include an electric personal assistive mobility device as defined in G.S.
2	<u>20-4.01(7a)."</u>
3	SECTION 4. G.S. 20-51 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
4	"(14) Electric personal assistive mobility devices as defined in G.S.
5	<u>20-4.01(7a)."</u>
6	SECTION 5. Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by
7	adding a new Part to read:
8	"Part 11C. Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices.
9	"§ 20-175.6. Electric personal assistive mobility devices.
10	(a) Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device. – As defined in G.S.
11	20-4.01(7a).
12	(b) Exempt From Registration. – As provided in G.S. 20-51.
13	(c) Use of Device An electric personal assistive mobility device may be
14	operated on public highways with posted speeds of 25 miles per hour or less, sidewalks,
15	and bicycle paths. A person operating an electric personal assistive mobility device on a
16	sidewalk, roadway, or bicycle path shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other
17	human-powered devices. A person operating an electric personal assistive mobility
18	device shall have all rights and duties of a pedestrian, including the rights and duties set
19	forth in Part 11 of this Article.
20	(d) Municipal Regulation. – For the purpose of assuring the safety of persons
21	using highways and sidewalks, municipalities having jurisdiction over public streets,
22	sidewalks, alleys, bridges, and other ways of public passage may by ordinance regulate
23	the time, place, and manner of the operation of electric personal assistive mobility
24	devices, but shall not prohibit their use."
25	SECTION 6. This act is effective when it becomes law.