

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO. _____
SERIES OF 2019

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB19-0784
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:

Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

A BILL

For an ordinance concerning the operation of electric scooters in the city and county of Denver.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly adopted statewide legislation regulating the use of electric scooters that requires modifications to the City and County of Denver's regulations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That subsections (19.8), (70.5), and (79) of section 54-1, D.R.M.C., are amended by adding the language underlined and deleting the language stricken, to read as follows:

Sec. 54-1. - Definitions.

(19.8) ~~Electric mobility scooter or EMS means a stand-up scooter with two (2) tandem wheels, designed to transport only one (1) person, and that is powered by an electric propulsion system having a top speed of no more than twenty (20) miles per hour.~~ Electric scooter means a device that weighs less than one hundred pounds with handlebars that is powered by an electric motor and that has a maximum speed of twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor. "Electric scooter" does not include an electrical assisted bicycle, EPAMD, motorcycle, or low-power scooter.

(70.5) *Toy vehicle* shall mean any vehicle that has wheels and is not designed for use on public highways or for off-road use.

a. Toy vehicle includes, but is not limited to, gas-powered or electric-powered vehicles commonly known as minibikes, "pocket bikes," kamikaze boards, go-peds, and stand-up scooters except for ~~EMSs~~ electric scooters as defined in subsection (19.8) of this section.

b. Toy vehicle does not include off-highway vehicles or snowmobiles.

(79) *Vehicle* shall mean every device that is capable of moving itself, or of being moved, from place to place upon wheels or endless tracks. Vehicle includes, without limitation, a motor vehicle, a

1 motorcycle, a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter or EPAMD, but does not include a
2 wheelchair, off-highway vehicle, snowmobile, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry designed
3 primarily or exclusively for use and used in agricultural operations or any device moved exclusively
4 over stationary rails or tracks or designed to move primarily through the air.

5 **Section 2.** That section 54-125 of the D.R.M.C. is amended by adding the language
6 underlined to read as follows:

7 **Sec. 54-125. - Clinging to moving vehicles.**

8 Any person riding upon any bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, EPAMD, electric scooter, low-
9 power scooter, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, skateboard or any other toy vehicle or device
10 shall not attach the same or themselves to any moving motor vehicle and the driver of any motor
11 vehicle shall not knowingly permit any such bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, EPAMD, electric
12 scooter, low-power scooter, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates or any other toy vehicle to be so
13 attached to the vehicle the person is driving.

14 **Section 3.** That section 54-237 of the D.R.M.C. is amended by adding the language
15 underlined to read as follows:

16 **Sec. 54-237. - Restriction on use of freeway.**

17 No pedestrian, electric scooter, bicycle or other nonmotorized traffic and no motor-driven
18 vehicles of less than ten (10) horsepower, nor any funeral procession, shall use or cross any freeway,
19 except upon direction of a police officer. No driver shall stop a vehicle upon any freeway for the
20 purpose of loading or unloading passengers or freight.

21 **Section 4.** That Division 2 of Article IX of Chapter 54 is amended by adding the language
22 underlined, deleting the language stricken, and relocating certain sections, to read as follows:

23 **ARTICLE IX. - BICYCLES, ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES, AND**
24 **ELECTRIC SCOOTERS**

25 **DIVISION 3. - ELECTRIC SCOOTERS**

26 **Sec. 54-612. - Scope.**

27 The provisions of this article applicable to an electric mobility scooter (~~EMS~~) apply whenever an
28 ~~EMS~~ electric scooter is operated upon any street, roadway, or upon any public path designated for the
29 use of an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter, subject to the exceptions contained herein.

30 **Sec. 54-613. - Application of traffic laws.**

31 A person operating an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter on a roadway is granted all of the rights and
32 subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the traffic rules and regulations of this
33 city, except as to special regulations and except as to the provisions of laws and ordinances which by

1 their nature can have no application.

2 **Sec. 54-614. - Obedience to traffic-control devices.**

3 (a) A person operating an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter must obey the instructions of official traffic-
4 control signals, signs, and other control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a
5 police officer.

6 (b) If authorized signs indicate that no right or left or U-turn is permitted, it is unlawful for a
7 person operating an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter to disobey the sign, except where the person dismounts
8 from the ~~EMS~~ electric scooter to make the turn, in which event, the person must then obey the
9 regulations applicable to pedestrians.

10 **Sec. 54-615. - Carrying persons.**

11 ~~No EMS may be used~~ It is unlawful for a person operating an electric scooter to carry ~~more than~~
12 ~~one (1) person at a time~~ another person on the electric scooter.

13 **Sec. 54-616. - Carrying articles.**

14 It is unlawful for a person operating an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter to carry any package, bundle, or
15 article that prevents the person from keeping at least one (1) hand upon the handlebars.

16 **Sec. 54-617. - Right-of-way.**

17 An ~~EMS~~ electric scooter is considered a vehicle under all portions of this Code that govern
18 right-of-way. The operator of an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter must yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian at all
19 times.

20 **Sec. 54-618. - Riding on roadways.**

21 ~~An EMS may be operated in any bicycle lane or in the roadway if the maximum speed~~
22 ~~limit of the roadway does not exceed thirty (30) miles per hour. If no bicycle lane is available and the~~
23 ~~roadway has a speed limit greater than thirty (30) miles per hour, the EMS may be operated on the~~
24 ~~sidewalk. Persons operating an EMS on the sidewalk in accordance with this section may not exceed~~
25 ~~a speed of six (6) miles per hour and must yield to pedestrians at all times.~~

26 (a) Persons operating an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter may not ride more than two (2) abreast except
27 on bicycle lanes set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

28 (b) Persons operating an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter upon a roadway must ride as near to the right-
29 hand side of the roadway as judged safe by the operator to facilitate the movement of such overtaking
30 vehicles unless other conditions make it unsafe to do so.

31 (c) This section does not apply to a uniformed city, state, or federal employee operating an
32 ~~EMS~~ electric scooter while engaged in the discharge of his or her duties or to a police officer operating
33 an ~~EMS~~ electric scooter that is a marked or unmarked official police vehicle, while engaged in the

1 discharge of his or her official duties.

2 **Sec. 54-619. - Speed.**

3 (a) It is unlawful for any person to operate an EMS electric scooter on a sidewalk at a speed
4 greater than six (6) miles per hour.

5 (b) It is unlawful for any person to operate an EMS electric scooter on a roadway or bicycle
6 lane at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing or in excess
7 of the posted speed limit.

8 (c) This section does not apply to a uniformed city, state, or federal employee operating an
9 EMS electric scooter while engaged in the discharge of his or her duties or to a police officer operating
10 an EMS electric scooter that is a marked or unmarked official police vehicle, while engaged in the
11 discharge of his or her official duties.

12 **Sec. 54-620. - Parking.**

13 (a) An electric scooter may be parked upon a roadway at any angle to the curb or edge of the
14 roadway at any location where parking is allowed.

15 (b) An electric scooter may be parked on the roadway abreast of another electric scooter,
16 bicycle, or electrical assisted bicycle near the side of the roadway or any location where parking is
17 allowed in a manner that does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

18 (c) An EMS electric scooter may park on a sidewalk in such a manner as to not impede the
19 normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic.

20 **Sec. 54-621. - Riding on sidewalks.**

21 (a) Riding an electric scooter upon or along sidewalks, whether on public property or private
22 property opened for use by the general public, is unlawful except:

23 (1) When the operator or rider thereof is a uniformed city employee or uniformed state
24 employee or uniformed federal employee working as part of his or her official duties and riding a
25 marked or unmarked official police electric scooter or while engaged in the discharge of his or her
26 official duties; or

27 (2) Where the sidewalk is part of a designated bicycle route; or

28 (4) When the operator or rider thereof is preparing to dismount and park the electric scooter
29 at a location on the block on which the electric scooter is being operated, or the operator has just
30 mounted and has not yet crossed a street or alley.

31 (b) An electric scooter operator must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians on the sidewalk.

32 **Sec. 54-622. - Lamps and reflectors.** (Relocated from Sec. 54-621 with amendments.)

33 (a) Every EMS electric scooter, when in use during dusk to dawn, must have a lamp on the
34 front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet to the front.

1 (b) Every EMS electric scooter, when in use during dusk to dawn, must have a red reflector of
2 a type approved by the department, that is visible for six hundred (600) feet to the rear when directly in
3 front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.

4 (c) Every EMS electric scooter, when in use from dusk to dawn, must have reflective material
5 of sufficient size and reflectibility to be visible from both sides for six hundred (600) feet when directly
6 in front of lawful lower beams or head lamps on a motor vehicle or, in lieu of such reflective material,
7 with a lighted lamp visible from both sides from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet.

8 (d) An EMS electric scooter may be equipped with lights or reflectors in addition to those
9 required in this section.

10 **Sec. 54-623. - Prohibited on roadways where posted - prohibited on 16th Street Pedestrian and**
11 **Transit Mall.** (Relocated from Sec. 54-622, with amendments.)

12 (a) The city traffic engineer is authorized to erect signs on any roadway prohibiting the riding
13 of electric scooters thereon by any person, and when such signs are in place, no person shall disobey
14 the same, except a uniformed city or state or federal employee riding an electric scooter, while
15 engaged in the discharge of his or her duties, or a police officer riding an electric scooter that is a
16 marked or unmarked official police electric scooter, while engaged in his or her official duties.

17 (b) It is unlawful for any person to operate an EMS electric scooter on the 16th Street
18 Pedestrian and Transit Mall, as defined in ordinance and city rules and regulations.

19 **Sec. 54-624. - Rules.** (Relocated from Sec. 54-623, with amendments.)

20 The department of public works may promulgate rules and regulations to further govern the use
21 of EMS electric scooter in the city and county of Denver including, but not limited to, any rules
22 necessary to address notices of violation by electric scooter companies, administrative citations to
23 electric scooter companies, and other remedies for failure of an electric scooter company for violating
24 a permit or failing to obtain a permit.

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1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: August 6, 2019

2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: August 13, 2019

3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 26, 2019

4 _____ - PRESIDENT

5 APPROVED: _____ - MAYOR Aug 27, 2019

6 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
7 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
8 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
9

10 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL _____; _____

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12 PREPARED BY: Troy Bratton, Deputy Legislative Counsel DATE: August 15, 2019

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14 Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the
15 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed
16 ordinance. The proposed ordinance **is not** submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §
17 3.2.6 of the Charter.
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19 Kristin M. Bronson, Denver City Attorney
20 BY: _____, Assistant City Attorney DATE: Aug 15, 2019

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