



# HOUSE BILL 6: Autocycle Definition and Regulation

2015-2016 General Assembly

**Committee:**

**Introduced by:**

**Analysis of:** S.L. 2015-163

**Date:**

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Staff Attorney

**SUMMARY:** *S.L. 2015-163 amends the motor vehicle laws of the State to define and regulate three-wheeled enclosed motorcycles, known as autocycles. The act provides that operators of autocycles only need a regular driver's license and do not have to wear a helmet.*

*This act became effective October 1, 2015.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under current law, autocycles are treated as motorcycles under the State's motor vehicle laws. This includes a requirement for operators of these vehicles to wear a motorcycle-type helmet.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This act amends the State's motor vehicle laws to specially address autocycles. Specifically, the act makes the following changes:

**Section 1** of the act defines autocycles as a special type of three-wheeled motorcycle with: a steering wheel, pedals, seat safety belts for each occupant, antilock brakes, airbags, an enclosed seating area, no saddle seat, and otherwise manufactured to comply with federal laws.

**Sections 2 and 3** of the act amend the States' driver's license law to require a regular driver's license, with no motorcycle endorsement, to operate an autocycle.

**Section 4** of the act specifies that State motor vehicle law concerning brakes applies to autocycles.

**Section 5** of the act specifies that State motor vehicle law concerning turn signals applies to autocycles.

**Section 6** of the act specifies that State motor vehicle law concerning lights applies to autocycles.

**Section 7** of the act specifies that State motor vehicle law concerning spot lamps applies to autocycles.

**Section 8** of the act specifies that State motor vehicle law concerning headlamps applies to autocycles.

**Sections 9 and 10** amend the State seat belt law to require a seat safety belt for each front and rear seat of the autocycle. The belts must meet the same standards as required in State law for a motor vehicle belt.

**Section 11** of the act exempts the operator and any passenger inside an autocycle from the State motorcycle helmet law.

**Section 12** of the act amends State law allowing the riding of motorcycles two abreast, to specify that autocycles may only be ridden one abreast in a single lane.

**Section 13** of the act is a conforming change to a statutory citation.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act became effective October 1, 2015.

**BACKGROUND:** An example of an autocycle is the proposed Elio vehicle. More information about this vehicle can be found at: <http://www.eliomotors.com/>

