



HOUSE BILL 6: Autocycle Definition and Regulation

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee: House Finance
Introduced by: Rep. Torbett
Analysis of: Second Edition

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SUMMARY: *House Bill 6 would amend the motor vehicle laws of the State to define and regulate three-wheeled enclosed motorcycles, known as autocycles. Operators of autocycles would only need a regular driver's license and would not have to wear a helmet.*

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: House Bill 6 amends the State's motor vehicle laws to specially address autocycles. Specifically, the bill makes the following changes:

Section 1 of the bill 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 bill 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 bill specifies that State motor vehicle law concerning brakes applies to autocycles.

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

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

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

Section 8 of the bill 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 bill exempts the operator and any passenger inside an autocycle from the State motorcycle helmet law.

Section 12 of the bill 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 bill is a conforming change to a statutory citation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 6 would become 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/>

Giles Perry with the Research Division substantially contributed to this summary.

