



HOUSE BILL 214: Autocycles/No Helmet Required.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: House Transportation
Introduced by: Rep. Speciale
Analysis of: First Edition

Date: March 21, 2017
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OVERVIEW: *House Bill 214 would eliminate the requirement that operators and passengers of autocycles with partially enclosed seating wear helmets.*

CURRENT LAW: In 2015, the General Assembly passed legislation to define and regulate autocycles. Prior to S.L. 2015-163, autocycles were treated as motorcycles under the law. G.S. 20-4.01(27) now includes autocycles as a separate category of passenger vehicle and defines an autocycle as a three wheeled motorcycle that has a steering wheel, pedals, seat safety belts for each occupant, antilock brakes, completely or partially enclosed seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride, and is otherwise manufactured to comply with federal safety requirements for motorcycles.

An autocycle is subject to several laws concerning equipment that apply to motor vehicles rather than motorcycles (seat belts, brakes, turn signals, lights, spot lamps, headlamps), and the operator of an autocycle is required to have a regular drivers license but is not required to have a motorcycle endorsement.

G.S. 20-14.4(a)(2) exempts the operator and passengers in an autocycle that has completely enclosed seating from the requirement that they wear a helmet. However, operators and passengers in autocycles with partially enclosed seating are required to wear a helmet under current law.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 214 would exempt operators and passengers in all autocycles, including those with partially enclosed seating, from the requirement that they wear a helmet. Currently the exemption only applies to autocycles with completely enclosed seating.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective July 1, 2017, and would not affect prosecutions for offenses committed before that date.

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Legislative Analysis
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