



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 739: Personal Delivery Device/PDD/Delivery Robots.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Commerce and Insurance. If favorable, re-refer to Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	May 27, 2020
Introduced by:	Sens. Perry, Searcy, Sawyer	Prepared by:	Amy Darden
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 739 defines and adds personal delivery devices (PDD) as a method of delivery in North Carolina, when certain conditions are met.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 of Senate Bill 736 adds the definition of a "personal delivery device" to the General Statutes and defines it as an electronically powered device for transporting cargo that is equipped with automated driving technology that enables the operation of the device with the remote support and supervision of a human. A PDD can only be operated in pedestrian areas, at speeds not exceeding 12 miles per hour, and on highways, at speeds not exceeding 20 miles per hour.

Section 2 of the bill creates a new Article regulating PDD that requires the following:

- Requires the business entity operating the PDD to register with the Secretary of State and pay a \$250 filing fee.
- Sets operation requirements for the business entity operating the PDD, such as being monitored by a human.
- Sets equipment requirements for the PDD, such as requiring name and owner contact information.
- Prevents municipalities from limiting PDD hours and areas of operation in a manner inconsistent with the Article and allows law enforcement officers to enforce the provision in their designated areas.
- Requires the business entity operating a PDD to maintain general liability coverage of not less than \$100,000.
- Provides the business entity is legally responsible for the operation of a PDD, unless an agent operates it outside the scope of their authority.
- Provides a person that request delivery or service via PDD is immune from criminal and civil liability, absent criminal intent or willful misconduct.
- Allows the Secretary of State to refuse, revoke, suspend, or restrict the registration of a business entity if the Secretary finds their operation of the PDD endangers public safety.

Section 3 of the bill appropriates \$5,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to implement this bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Senate Bill 739 becomes effective when it becomes law.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578