

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 3067

As Reported by House Committee On:
Transportation

Title: An act relating to motorized foot scooters.

Brief Description: Prohibiting gasoline powered motorized foot scooters from public ways.

Sponsors: Representatives Romero and Chase.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 2/5/04, 2/9/04 [DP].

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Bans gas-powered motorized foot scooter on public ways.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 16 members: Representatives Murray, Chair; Rockefeller, Vice Chair; G. Simpson, Vice Chair; Campbell, Clibborn, Cooper, Dickerson, Flannigan, Hankins, Hudgins, Lovick, Morris, Romero, Sullivan, Wallace and Wood.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Jarrett, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Armstrong, Bailey, Hatfield, Kristiansen, Mielke, Nixon, Rodne, Shabro and Woods.

Staff: Jill Satran (786-7315).

Background:

In 2003, the Legislature authorized the use of motorized foot scooters on public ways and in appropriately signed, non-federally funded parks. In brief, a motorized foot scooter is a two-wheeled device with handlebars that is powered by an electric or gasoline motor, capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion. Under current law, motorized foot scooters are not licensed, no restrictions have been placed on who may operate such a device, and there are no requirements regarding mufflers.

Since the state statute has gone into effect, several local jurisdictions (including Lynnwood, Stanwood and Lake Stevens) have considered or have adopted ordinances further regulating the operation of motorized foot scooters in response to complaints about noise and safety issues. Most recently, the City of Wenatchee passed an ordinance that imposes the following restrictions:

1. requires operators to have a valid driver's license;
2. prohibits operating a motorized foot scooter on the sidewalk;
3. requires headlights under certain conditions; and
4. requires that motorized foot scooters be equipped with a muffling device.

Summary of Bill:

Gasoline-powered motorized foot scooters are prohibited on public ways, bike and equestrian trails and paths, hiking and recreational trails.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2004.

Testimony For: Last year we tried to pass legislation that would have regulated these better. Gas-powered scooters particularly are extremely noisy and disrupt others. Several local jurisdictions, in Washington and throughout the United States, have passed local ordinances to address the noise and safety concerns. These bills attempt to provide some boundaries around the use of motorized foot scooters.

Testimony Against: None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Romero, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.