



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2019 Wisconsin Act 11
[2019 Senate Bill 152]

Operation of Electric Scooters

2019 Wisconsin Act 11 defines, authorizes, and creates a framework for the operation of electric scooters on roadways, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and bicycle ways. Under the act, an electric scooter is a device that:

- Weighs less than 100 pounds.
- Has handlebars and an electric motor.
- Is powered solely by the electric motor and human power.
- Has a maximum speed of not more than 20 miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the motor.

As defined, the term “electric scooter” does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD), motorcycle, motor bicycle, electric bicycle, or moped.

In general, the act applies the same rules of the road to electric scooters as are applied to EPAMDs under current law. The act provides that an electric scooter may not be operated at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour on any bicycle path. An electric scooter must comply with front and rear lighting requirements in order to be operated during hours of darkness and must be equipped with a brake that is in good working condition.

Under the act, a city, village, town, or county (“local government”) may regulate the rental and operation of electric scooters, but must do so in the same way that it regulates bicycles, except as follows:

- A local government may restrict or prohibit:
 - The operation of scooters on roads with speeds in excess of 25 miles per hour.
 - The operation of scooters on sidewalks and bicycle ways.

This memo provides a brief description of the act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

- The short term commercial rental of scooters to the general public.
- A local government may establish requirements for and limitations on the parking of scooters on roadways, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and bicycle ways.

Effective date: July 10, 2019

Prepared by: David Moore, Senior Staff Attorney

July 30, 2019

DM:mcm;ty