



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2017 Wisconsin Act 13**  
[2017 Senate Bill 148]

**Personal Delivery Devices**

2017 Wisconsin Act 13 (the Act) creates a framework for the operation of a personal delivery device (PDD). Under the Act, a PDD is defined as an electronically powered device that satisfies the following:

- The device is intended primarily to transport property on sidewalks and crosswalks.
- The device weighs less than 80 pounds, without cargo.
- The device is capable of a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour or less.
- The device is capable of operating with and without the active control or monitoring by an individual.

The Act authorizes the operation of PDDs on sidewalks and crosswalks, unless it is prohibited by a Department of Transportation rule or by a local government's (county, town, village, or city) ordinance. The Act excludes a PDD from the definitions of "vehicle" and "motor vehicle" in the traffic code and the criminal code. As such, under the Act, most regulations that apply to a "vehicle" or a "motor vehicle" do not apply to a PDD.

The Act requires that a PDD be equipped with: (1) a braking system that will enable the device to come to a controlled stop; and (2) a clearly visible plate or marker that identifies the name and contact information of the PDD operator. In addition, if the PDD will be operated during hours of darkness, the PDD must be equipped with a white light visible from at least 500 feet to its front and with a red reflector visible from all distances from 50 to 500 feet to its rear or a lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light.

In general, a PDD must comply with the rules of the road associated with pedestrians, including yielding as required at crosswalks; obeying traffic and pedestrian control signals; and complying with any lawful order, signal, or direction from a traffic officer. The PDD operator may be subject to penalties in the event that the PDD violates the rules of the road. With respect

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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>.

to railroads, the Act provides that the limitations placed upon pedestrians for crossing a railroad track also apply to a PDD operator, except that a PDD operator is not required to pay a railroad crossing improvement surcharge in addition to any forfeiture imposed for a railroad crossing violation.

For a PDD to be operated on a sidewalk or crosswalk, a PDD operator must ensure all of the following:

- The operator has control or is monitoring the navigation and operation of the PDD.
- The PDD does not go upon any roadway, except to cross at a crosswalk.
- The PDD is operated with due care.
- The PDD complies with traffic signals and signs.
- The PDD does not exceed 10 miles per hour.
- The PDD yields the right-of-way to a pedestrian.

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*Prepared by:* Melissa Schmidt, Senior Staff Attorney

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