



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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DATE: February 7, 2018

TO: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

FROM: Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: SB 1532, Motor Assisted Scooters

INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 1532 slightly alters the definition of a Motor Assisted Scooter within the vehicle code. These scooters are subject to particular rights and limitations under the law.

DISCUSSION

The bill expands the description of “motor assisted scooter” in the Oregon Vehicle Code. Operators of these vehicles are allowed to be present on the road, with the same rights and duties of any other vehicle on the road, except where statute specifies otherwise. For example, like any other operator of a vehicle, an operator of a motor assisted scooter may not drive under the influence of intoxicants. Examples of the specified limitations are as follows:

- Must be at least 16 years old.
- Maximum speed allowed is 15 MPH.
- Not allowed on roads with speed limit over 25 MPH, unless using a bike lane.
- Must use a bike lane/path if it's there, unless local ordinance prohibits it.
- When in a bike lane, must yield to others or give warning when approaching.
- Must operate as near to right edge as possible.
- Must use hand signals for stops and turns.
- May not carry a passenger.
- Must keep at least one hand on the steering mechanism, and generally keep full control of the vehicle.
- Must wear a bicycle-type helmet.

SUMMARY

The expansion of the definition in the bill allows additional vehicles to legally operate on public roads. All operators of motor assisted scooters have several limitations over their exercise of that allowance.