

HB 4067 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 02/22/24

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

House Vote

Yeas: 4 - Evans, Mannix, McLain, Nathanson

Nays: 2 - Boshart Davis, Reschke

Exc: 1 - Pham K

Senate Vote

Yeas: 3 - Boquist, Frederick, Gorsek

Exc: 2 - Findley, Woods

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/15, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the Task Force on Electric Mobility. Defines "electric micromobility devices" to include small, wheeled vehicles operating at speeds below 30 miles per hour; devices to serve a wide range of user needs, including freight delivery; and devices such as electric assisted bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric wheelchairs or scooters, motor assisted scooters, or mopeds. Directs it to review existing state laws related to micromobility and personal mobility devices; review whether safety and education requirements should be required; examine how best to use micromobility devices to promote equity, safety, and climate goals; examine best practices for micromobility devices; examine statutory definitions; address commercial use of micromobility devices; examine education and certification programs; and seek input from a broad range of community partners. Defines "electric micromobility device." Requires the Task Force to submit a report to the Joint Committee on Transportation by December 1, 2024. Sunsets December 31, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for education on the safe use of electric micromobility devices
- Use of electric micromobility devices by young adults
- Rapid increase in use of electric micromobility devices
- Role of micromobility in addressing congestion and climate issues
- Importance of further study of issue

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces member representing State Parks and Recreation Department with member representing a local government parks and recreation department. Reduces number of members representing law enforcement and medical emergency services from two to one. Replaces member representing a city transportation department with two members, one representing City of Portland and one representing any other city. Replaces member representing roadway users with member representing an association that represents motor vehicle users. Replaces member representing off road vehicle and trail users with member representing mixed-use trail users. Clarifies Task Force should seek input from community partners and relevant state agencies. Adds definition of "electric micromobility devices."

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BACKGROUND:

The term "micromobility" refers to a range of small personal vehicles that typically convey one or two individuals. They generally operate at speeds below 30 miles per hour, weigh less than 500 pounds, and operate with human power or electric power. Some common examples of micromobility devices include bicycles, scooters, or other similar devices. The devices can be privately owned and operated or can be part of a shared fleet; the Federal Highway Administration had estimated over 260 different shared mobility systems in existence as of August 2020, including docked and dockless bikeshare and e-scooter systems.

Micromobility devices are often considered as a solution for the "last mile" problem, in that they offer a supplemental resource to public transportation and automobiles in commuter traffic and urban areas. A rider who takes a commuter rail or light rail line to the station or stop closest to their final destination, for example, could utilize a micromobility device to reach their destination, through the rental of a dockless e-scooter, for example. Micromobility also offers an alternative to walking in urban environments for residents who do not own a car or who prefer to make some trips without using a car.

House Bill 4067 A establishes a 19-member Task Force on Electric Micromobility to conduct a study and review of issues related to micromobility devices. The Task Force is directed to report its findings to the Joint Committee on Transportation by December 1, 2024.