



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

File No. 284

Senate Bill No. 698

Senate, April 10, 2003

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. CIOTTO of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 14-289h of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (d) Any person sixteen years of age or older who has disabilities
5 which limit or impair the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Part
6 1235.2 and who has been issued a placard pursuant to the provisions
7 of section 14-253a may operate an electric personal assistive mobility
8 device on any sidewalk or at the person's place of employment or on a
9 highway for the purposes of crossing the highway at a crosswalk,
10 when practicable, or at an angle of approximately ninety degrees to the
11 direction of the highway at a location at which there are no
12 obstructions that may prevent an expedient and safe crossing provided
13 such device is completely stopped before entering the traveled portion

14 of the highway and the operator yields the right-of-way to any motor
15 vehicle using such highway. Any such operator shall yield the right-of-
16 way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk or highway.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

TRA *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Motor Vehicle Dept.	TF - None	None	None

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill would allow any person sixteen or older with a disability that impairs walking, to use an “electric personal assistive mobility device” (EPAMD) on sidewalks, at their place of employment, and to cross highways at crosswalks.

Passage of this bill will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Motor Vehicles.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 698

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows those currently allowed to use an “electric personal assistive mobility device” (EPAMD) on a sidewalk or, under certain conditions, to cross a highway at a crosswalk or elsewhere to also use the device at their place of employment. By law, an EPAMD may be used by anyone who is at least age 16, has disabilities that limit or impair walking ability, and has been issued a placard pursuant to state law granting special parking privileges to such individuals.

By law, an EPAMD is a self-balancing device unsuitable for operation on a public highway, having two non-tandem wheels, and designed to transport one person by an electric propulsion system equipped with a device that limits maximum speed to 15 miles per hour. (The device currently on the market that conforms to this definition is known as the Segway.) An EPAMD must be equipped with front, rear, and side reflectors and a system that enables it to be brought to a controlled stop. It also must display a headlamp if it is operated during the period when headlights are required on motor vehicles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 26 Nay 0