

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 739
Commerce and Insurance Committee Substitute Adopted 5/27/20
Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 6/10/20

Short Title: Personal Delivery Device/PDD/Delivery Robots.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 18, 2020

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DEFINE AND REGULATE PERSONAL DELIVERY DEVICES.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-4.01 reads as rewritten:

5 "**§ 20-4.01. Definitions.**

6 Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this
7 Chapter to the defined words and phrases and their cognates:

8 ...

9 (28a) Personal delivery device. – An electrically powered device intended for
10 transporting cargo that is equipped with automated driving technology that
11 enables device operation with or without the remote support and supervision
12 of a human and that does not exceed (i) a weight of 500 pounds, excluding
13 cargo, (ii) a length of 40 inches, and (iii) a width of 30 inches.

14 ~~(28a)~~(28b) Plug-in electric vehicle. – A four-wheeled motor vehicle that meets each
15 of the following requirements:

16 ...

17 (49) Vehicle. – Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or
18 may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices moved by
19 human power or used exclusively upon fixed rails or tracks; provided, that for
20 the purposes of this Chapter bicycles and electric assisted bicycles shall be
21 deemed vehicles and every rider of a bicycle or an electric assisted bicycle
22 upon a highway shall be subject to the provisions of this Chapter applicable
23 to the driver of a vehicle except those which by their nature can have no
24 application. This term shall not include a device which is designed for and
25 intended to be used as a means of transportation for a person with a mobility
26 impairment, or who uses the device for mobility enhancement, is suitable for
27 use both inside and outside a building, including on sidewalks, and is limited
28 by design to 15 miles per hour when the device is being operated by a person
29 with a mobility impairment, or who uses the device for mobility enhancement.
30 This term shall not include (i) an electric personal assistive mobility device as
31 defined in subdivision (7b) of this ~~section~~-section or (ii) a personal delivery
32 device as defined by this section. Unless the context requires otherwise, and
33 except as provided under G.S. 20-109.2, 47-20.6, or 47-20.7, a manufactured
34 home shall be deemed a vehicle.

35"



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1 **SECTION 2.** Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
2 a new Part to read:

3 "Part 11D. Personal Delivery Devices.

4 "§ 20-175.7. Definitions.

5 The following definitions apply to this Part:

- 6 (1) Agent. – A director, officer, employee, or other person authorized to act on
7 behalf of a business entity.
8 (2) Business entity. – A corporation, limited liability company, partnership, sole
9 proprietorship, or other legal entity authorized to conduct business under the
10 laws of this State.
11 (3) Operator. – An agent who is 16 years of age or older and is charged with the
12 responsibility of monitoring and operating a personal delivery device.
13 (4) Pedestrian area. – A sidewalk, crosswalk, school crosswalk, school crossing
14 zone, or safety zone.
15 (5) Personal delivery device. – As defined in G.S. 20-4.01.

16 "§ 20-175.8. Personal delivery devices authorized; operation; equipment.

17 (a) A business entity may operate a personal delivery device in a pedestrian area or on a
18 highway, with the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under this Chapter, subject to the
19 requirements and restrictions of this Part. Except as authorized in this Part, no person may operate
20 a personal delivery device in a pedestrian area or on a highway in this State.

21 (b) Operation of a personal delivery device shall comply with all of the following:

- 22 (1) The personal delivery device shall be monitored by an operator who is able to
23 exercise remote control over the navigation and operation of the personal
24 delivery device.
25 (2) The personal delivery device may not be operated in a pedestrian area at a
26 speed greater than 10 miles per hour.
27 (3) The personal delivery device may not be operated on a highway except as
28 necessary to cross a highway or along a highway if a sidewalk is not provided
29 or accessible. When operating along a highway under this subdivision, the
30 following additional restrictions apply:
31 a. The personal delivery device shall be operated on the shoulder or as
32 close as practicable to the extreme right of the highway in the direction
33 of authorized traffic movement and shall yield the right-of-way to all
34 vehicles.
35 b. The personal delivery device may not be operated on a highway at a
36 speed greater than 20 miles per hour.
37 c. The personal delivery device may not be operated on a highway with
38 a speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour.
39 (4) The personal delivery device shall obey all traffic and pedestrian control
40 devices and signs.
41 (5) The personal delivery device shall yield the right-of-way to all human
42 pedestrians.
43 (6) The personal delivery device shall not unreasonably interfere with any vehicle
44 or pedestrian.
45 (7) The personal delivery device shall not transport materials regulated under the
46 Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. §§ 5101 – 5128) that
47 require placarding pursuant to Subpart F of 49 C.F.R. Part 172 (49 C.F.R. §§
48 172.500 – 172.560).

49 (c) A personal delivery device shall be equipped with all of the following:

- 50 (1) A marker that clearly states the name and contact information of the owner
51 and a unique identification number.

1 (2) A braking system that enables the device to come to a controlled stop.

2 (3) When operated at night, lights on the front and rear of the personal delivery
3 device that are visible and recognizable under normal atmospheric conditions
4 from at least 500 feet on all sides of the personal delivery device.

5 (d) A violation of this section is an infraction.

6 **"§ 20-175.9. Local regulation.**

7 For the purpose of assuring the safety of persons using highways and sidewalks, a local
8 government having jurisdiction over public streets, sidewalks, alleys, bridges, and other ways of
9 public passage may by ordinance regulate time and place of the operation of personal delivery
10 devices, but shall not prohibit their use.

11 **"§ 20-175.10. Insurance.**

12 A business entity that operates a personal delivery device under this Part shall maintain an
13 insurance policy that includes general liability coverage of not less than one hundred thousand
14 dollars (\$100,000) per claim for damages arising from the operation of the personal delivery
15 device."

16 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 20-175.9, as enacted by Section 2 of this act, reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 20-175.9. Local regulation.**

18 For the purpose of assuring the safety of persons using highways and sidewalks, a local
19 government having jurisdiction over public streets, sidewalks, alleys, bridges, and other ways of
20 public passage may by ordinance regulate the time and place of the operation of personal delivery
21 devices, but shall not prohibit their use. prohibit operation of personal delivery devices within its
22 jurisdiction if the local government determines that the prohibition is necessary."

23 **SECTION 3.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2022. Any ordinance
24 regulating time and place of operation of personal delivery devices adopted by a local
25 government in accordance with G.S. 20-175.9 before the effective date of this section shall
26 remain in effect until repealed by that local government.

27 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-146.2(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

28 "(4) Plug-in electric vehicles as defined in ~~G.S. 20-4.01(28a)~~, G.S. 20-4.01(28b),
29 regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle. These vehicles must be
30 able to travel at the posted speed limit while operating in the HOV lane."

31 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-183.2(b)(9) reads as rewritten:

32 "(9) It is not a plug-in electric vehicle as defined in
33 ~~G.S. 20-4.01(28a)~~; G.S. 20-4.01(28b)."

34 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 20-286(10) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to read:

35 "c. The term "motor vehicle" does not include an electrically powered
36 device that is equipped with automated driving technology that
37 enables device operation with or without remote support and
38 supervision of a human, and to which all of the following apply: (i) the
39 device does not exceed a weight of 750 pounds, excluding cargo, (ii)
40 the device does not exceed a length of 40 inches when not linked with
41 other devices, and (iii) the device does not exceed a width of 36 inches.
42 An electrically powered device that is equipped with automated
43 driving technology that enables device operation with or without
44 remote support and supervision of a human and that exceeds any of
45 the dimensions set out in this sub-subdivision is included in the term
46 "motor vehicle" under this Article, and the device is subject to the
47 provisions of Article 18 of this Chapter if it falls within the definition
48 of "fully autonomous vehicle" under G.S. 20-400(3)."

49 **SECTION 7.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
50 Public Safety the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year in

1 nonrecurring funds for the purpose of educating the public on safely interacting with personal
2 delivery devices operating in vehicular and pedestrian traffic, as authorized by this act.
3 **SECTION 8.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective December 1,
4 2020, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.