STATE OF NEW YORK

8910

IN SENATE

January 14, 2026

Introduced by Sen. BORRELLO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to increasing penalties for reckless operation and unauthorized modification of electric personal mobility devices

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 114-f to read as follows:

§ 114-f. Electric skateboard. Every device weighing less than one hundred pounds that:

(a) may have handlebars, a floorboard designed to be stood upon by the operator that is no more than sixty inches long and eighteen inches wide, and an electric motor;

(b) can be powered by an electric motor and/or human power;

(c) is designed to transport only one person at a time; and

(d) has a maximum speed of no more than twenty-five miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor.

§ 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 1809-f to read as follows:

§ 1809-f. Increased penalties for reckless operation and unauthorized modification of electric personal mobility devices. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Electric personal mobility device" shall mean an electric bicycle with assist as defined in section one hundred two-c of this chapter, an electric scooter as defined in section one hundred fourteen-e of this chapter, a hoverboard, or an electric skateboard as defined in section one hundred fourteen-f of this chapter.

(b) "Reckless operation" shall mean driving on sidewalks in a manner that endangers pedestrians, ignoring traffic control devices such as stop signs and traffic lights, operating against the flow of traffic, and traveling at excessive speeds in pedestrian-heavy or school zones.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(c) "Illegally modified" shall mean the modification of an electric personal mobility device to exceed manufacturer set speed limits or bypass safety regulations.

2. If an individual is found to have engaged in reckless operation of an electric personal mobility device, a first offense shall result in a fine of up to two hundred fifty dollars and the completion of a safety education course by the offender. A second offense committed within two years from the first offense shall result in a fine of up to five hundred dollars and may also result in temporary confiscation of the electric personal mobility device used for a period of up to thirty days. A third and subsequent offenses shall result in a fine of up to one thousand dollars, permanent confiscation of the electric personal mobility device used and potential misdemeanor charges if injury or property damage results from such reckless operation.

3. Any individual who has been found to have illegally modified an electric personal mobility device shall be subject to a fine of up to seven hundred fifty dollars, immediate confiscation of such electric personal mobility device, and civil liability for any resulting harm. An individual may retrieve a confiscated device only after all fines are paid, any civil liability is resolved, and the individual provides written documentation from a certified mechanic confirming that the device is scheduled for repair on a specific date and that the illegal modifications will be removed. If the individual fails to complete the required modifications on the date specified, they shall be subject to an additional fine of up to one thousand dollars, permanent confiscation of the electric personal mobility device, and a charge of reckless endangerment in the second degree, classified as a class A misdemeanor.

4. Local law enforcement and traffic officers shall be authorized to issue citations and confiscate devices as necessary in accordance with the provisions of this section.

5. The department of transportation shall develop and distribute public education materials on the safe and lawful operation of electric personal mobility devices. Such materials shall include, but not be limited to, clear explanations of applicable traffic laws and local ordinances, guidance on where and how such devices may be legally operated, such as bike lanes vs. sidewalks, information on speed limits, helmet use, and age restrictions, warnings about the dangers and legal consequences of reckless operation or illegal modifications, and instructions for reporting unsafe behavior or malfunctioning devices. Materials shall be made available in multiple formats, including print, digital, and on social media, and shall be distributed through schools, community centers, and retail outlets that sell or rent electric mobility devices in the state of New York. The department of transportation shall also collaborate with local governments and law enforcement to ensure consistent messaging and community outreach.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.