

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-1720, 46.2-100, 46.2-800, 46.2-839, 46.2-847, 46.2-849, 46.2-856, 46.2-857, 46.2-903 through 46.2-908.1, 46.2-932, 46.2-1015, 46.2-1066 and 46.2-1078 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric personal assistive mobility devices; penalties.*

[H 905]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 15.2-1720, 46.2-100, 46.2-800, 46.2-839, 46.2-847, 46.2-849, 46.2-856, 46.2-857, 46.2-903 through 46.2-908.1, 46.2-932, 46.2-1015, 46.2-1066 and 46.2-1078 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 15.2-1720. Localities authorized to license bicycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, mopeds, and electric personal assistive mobility devices; disposition of unclaimed bicycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, mopeds, and electric personal assistive mobility devices.

Any locality may, by ordinance, (i) provide for the public sale or donation to a charitable organization of any bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped that has been in the possession of the police or sheriff's department, unclaimed, for more than thirty days; (ii) require every resident owner of a bicycle, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped to obtain a license therefor and a license plate ~~or~~, tag, *and, in the case of an electric personal assistive mobility device, an adhesive license decal* of such design and material as the ordinance may prescribe, to be substantially attached to the bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped; (iii) prescribe the license fee, the license application forms and the license form; and (iv) prescribe penalties for operating a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped on public roads or streets within the locality without an attached license plate ~~or~~, tag, *or adhesive decal*. The ordinance shall require the license plates ~~or~~, tags, *or adhesive decals* to be provided by and at the cost of the locality. Any locality may provide that the license plates ~~or~~, tags, *or adhesive decals* shall be ~~good~~ *valid* for the life of the bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds to which they are attached or for such other period as it may prescribe and may prescribe such fee therefor as it may deem reasonable. When any town license is required as provided for herein, the license shall be in lieu of any license required by any county ordinance. Any bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped found and delivered to the police or sheriff's department by a private person that thereafter remains unclaimed for thirty days after the final date of publication as required herein may be given to the finder; however, the location and description of the bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped shall be published at least once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the locality. In addition, if there is a license, tag, *or adhesive license decal* affixed to the bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, or electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped, the record owner shall be notified directly.

## § 46.2-100. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this title shall, for the purpose of this title, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

"Antique motor vehicle" means every motor vehicle, as defined in this section, which was actually manufactured or designated by the manufacturer as a model manufactured in a calendar year not less than twenty-five years prior to January 1 of each calendar year and is owned solely as a collector's item.

"Automobile or watercraft transporters" means any tractor truck, lowboy, vehicle, or combination, including vehicles or combinations that transport motor vehicles or watercraft on their power unit, designed and used exclusively for the transportation of motor vehicles or watercraft.

"Bicycle" means a device propelled solely by human power, having pedals, two or more wheels, and a seat height of more than twenty-five inches from the ground when adjusted to its maximum height. For purposes of Chapter 8 (§ 46.2-800 et seq.) of this title, a bicycle shall be a vehicle while operated on the highway.

"Business district" means the territory contiguous to a highway where seventy-five percent or more of the property contiguous to a highway, on either side of the highway, for a distance of 300 feet or more along the highway, is occupied by land and buildings actually in use for business purposes.

"Camping trailer" means every vehicle that has collapsible sides and contains sleeping quarters but

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57 may or may not contain bathing and cooking facilities and is designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle.

58 "Cancel" or "cancellation" means that the document or privilege cancelled has been annulled or  
59 terminated because of some error, defect, or ineligibility, but the cancellation is without prejudice and  
60 reapplication may be made at any time after cancellation.

61 "Chauffeur" means every person employed for the principal purpose of driving a motor vehicle and  
62 every person who drives a motor vehicle while in use as a public or common carrier of persons or  
63 property.

64 "Commission" means the State Corporation Commission.

65 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles of the  
66 Commonwealth.

67 "Crosswalk" means that part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the  
68 lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or, in the  
69 absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable roadway; or any portion of a roadway at an  
70 intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the  
71 surface.

72 "Decal" means a device to be attached to a license plate that validates the license plate for a  
73 predetermined registration period.

74 "Department" means the Department of Motor Vehicles of the Commonwealth.

75 "Disabled parking license plate" means a license plate that displays the international symbol of access  
76 in the same size as the numbers and letters on the plate and in a color that contrasts with the  
77 background.

78 "Disabled veteran" means a veteran who (i) has either lost, or lost the use of, a leg, arm, or hand;  
79 (ii) is blind; or (iii) is permanently and totally disabled as certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration.  
80 A veteran shall be considered blind if he has a permanent impairment of both eyes to the following  
81 extent: (i) central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective lenses, or central  
82 visual acuity of more than 20/200, if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted  
83 to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than  
84 twenty degrees in the better eye.

85 "Driver's license" means any license, including a commercial driver's license as defined in the  
86 Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.), issued under the laws of the  
87 Commonwealth authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle.

88 "*Electric personal assistive mobility device*" means a self-balancing two-nontandem-wheeled device  
89 that is designed to transport only one person and powered by an electric propulsion system that limits  
90 the device's maximum speed to fifteen miles per hour or less. For purposes of Chapter 8 of this title, an  
91 electric personal assistive mobility device shall be a vehicle when operated on a highway.

92 "Electric power-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle equipped with an electric motor that reduces the  
93 pedal effort required of the rider, but does not eliminate the rider's need to pedal. For the purposes of  
94 Chapter 8 of this title, an electric power-assisted bicycle shall be a vehicle when operated on a highway.

95 "Essential parts" means all integral parts and body parts, the removal, alteration, or substitution of  
96 which will tend to conceal the identity of a vehicle.

97 "Farm tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used as a farm, agricultural, or horticultural  
98 implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other farm, agricultural, or horticultural machinery  
99 and implements including self-propelled mowers designed and used for mowing lawns.

100 "Federal safety requirements" means applicable provisions of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle  
101 Safety Act of 1966 as amended (15 U.S.C. § 1381 et seq.) and all administrative regulations and policies  
102 adopted pursuant thereto.

103 "Financial responsibility" means the ability to respond in damages for liability thereafter incurred  
104 arising out of the ownership, maintenance, use, or operation of a motor vehicle, in the amounts provided  
105 for in § 46.2-472.

106 "Foreign market vehicle" means any motor vehicle originally manufactured outside the United States,  
107 which was not manufactured in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act as  
108 amended (15 U.S.C. § 1381 et seq.) and the policies and regulations adopted pursuant to that Act, and  
109 for which a Virginia title or registration is sought.

110 "Foreign vehicle" means every motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is brought into the  
111 Commonwealth otherwise than in the ordinary course of business by or through a manufacturer or dealer  
112 and that has not been registered in the Commonwealth.

113 "Golf cart" means a self-propelled vehicle that is designed to transport persons playing golf and their  
114 equipment on a golf course.

115 "Gross weight" means the aggregate weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles and the load  
116 thereon.

117 "Highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way or place open to the use

of the public for purposes of vehicular travel in the Commonwealth, including the streets and alleys, and, for law-enforcement purposes, the entire width between the boundary lines of all private roads or private streets that have been specifically designated "highways" by an ordinance adopted by the governing body of the county, city, or town in which such private roads or streets are located.

"Intersection" means (i) the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curblines or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways that join one another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling on different highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict; (ii) where a highway includes two roadways thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection, in the event such intersecting highway also includes two roadways thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of such highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection; or (iii) for purposes only of authorizing installation of traffic-control devices, every crossing of a highway or street at grade by a pedestrian crosswalk.

"Law-enforcement officer" means any officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of this title or local ordinances authorized by law. For the purposes of access to law-enforcement databases regarding motor vehicle registration and ownership only, this term shall also include city and county commissioners of the revenue and treasurers, together with their duly designated deputies and employees, when such officials are actually engaged in the enforcement of §§ 46.2-752, 46.2-753 and 46.2-754 and local ordinances enacted thereunder.

"License plate" means a device containing letters, numerals, or a combination of both, attached to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to indicate that the vehicle is properly registered with the Department.

"Light" means a device for producing illumination or the illumination produced by the device.

"Manufactured home" means a structure subject to federal regulation, transportable in one or more sections, which in the traveling mode is eight body feet or more in width or forty body feet or more in length, or, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems contained therein.

"Moped" means a conveyance that is either (i) a bicycle-like device with pedals and a helper motor that is rated at no more than two brake horsepower and that produces speeds up to a maximum of thirty miles per hour or (ii) a motorcycle with an engine displacement of 50 cubic centimeters or less and a maximum speed of less than thirty miles per hour. For purposes of Chapter 8 (§ 46.2-800 et seq.) of this title, a moped shall be a vehicle while operated on a highway.

"Motor home" means every private motor vehicle with a normal seating capacity of not more than ten persons, including the driver, designed primarily for use as living quarters for human beings.

"Motor vehicle" means every vehicle as defined in this section that is self-propelled or designed for self-propulsion except as otherwise provided in this title. Any structure designed, used, or maintained primarily to be loaded on or affixed to a motor vehicle to provide a mobile dwelling, sleeping place, office, or commercial space shall be considered a part of a motor vehicle. For the purposes of this title, any device herein defined as a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped shall be deemed not to be a motor vehicle.

"Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, except any vehicle included within the term "farm tractor" or "moped" as defined in this section.

"Nonresident" means every person who is not domiciled in the Commonwealth, except: (i) any foreign corporation that is authorized to do business in the Commonwealth by the State Corporation Commission shall be a resident of the Commonwealth for the purpose of this title; in the case of corporations incorporated in the Commonwealth but doing business outside the Commonwealth, only such principal place of business or branches located within the Commonwealth shall be dealt with as residents of the Commonwealth; (ii) a person who becomes engaged in a gainful occupation in the Commonwealth for a period exceeding sixty days shall be a resident for the purposes of this title except for the purposes of Chapter 3 (§ 46.2-300 et seq.) of this title; (iii) a person, other than a nonresident student as defined in this section, who has actually resided in the Commonwealth for a period of six months, whether employed or not, or who has registered a motor vehicle, listing an address in the Commonwealth in the application for registration shall be deemed a resident for the purposes of this title, except for the purposes of the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.).

"Nonresident student" means every nonresident person who is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited institution of learning in the Commonwealth and who is not gainfully employed.

"Operation or use for rent or for hire, for the transportation of passengers, or as a property carrier for

compensation," and "business of transporting persons or property" mean any owner or operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer operating over the highways in the Commonwealth who accepts or receives compensation for the service, directly or indirectly; but these terms do not mean a "truck lessor" as defined in this section and do not include persons or businesses that receive compensation for delivering a product that they themselves sell or produce, where a separate charge is made for delivery of the product or the cost of delivery is included in the sale price of the product, but where the person or business does not derive all or a substantial portion of its income from the transportation of persons or property except as part of a sales transaction.

"Operator" or "driver" means every person who either (i) drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle on a highway or (ii) is exercising control over or steering a vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle.

"Owner" means a person who holds the legal title to a vehicle; however, if a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for its conditional sale or lease with the right of purchase on performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee or if a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then the conditional vendee or lessee or mortgagor shall be the owner for the purpose of this title. In all such instances when the rent paid by the lessee includes charges for services of any nature or when the lease does not provide that title shall pass to the lessee on payment of the rent stipulated, the lessor shall be regarded as the owner of the vehicle, and the vehicle shall be subject to such requirements of this title as are applicable to vehicles operated for compensation. A "truck lessor" as defined in this section shall be regarded as the owner, and his vehicles shall be subject to such requirements of this title as are applicable to vehicles of private carriers.

"Passenger car" means every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle designed and used primarily for the transportation of no more than ten persons including the driver.

"Payment device" means any credit card as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1602(k) or any "accepted card or other means of access" set forth in 15 U.S.C. § 1693(a) (1). For the purposes of this title, this definition shall also include a card that enables a person to pay for transactions through the use of value stored on the card itself.

"Pickup or panel truck" means every motor vehicle designed for the transportation of property and having a registered gross weight of 7,500 pounds or less.

"Private road or driveway" means every way in private ownership and used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons.

"Reconstructed vehicle" means every vehicle of a type required to be registered under this title materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of new or used essential parts.

"Residence district" means the territory contiguous to a highway, not comprising a business district, where seventy-five percent or more of the property abutting such highway, on either side of the highway, for a distance of 300 feet or more along the highway consists of land improved for dwelling purposes, or is occupied by dwellings, or consists of land or buildings in use for business purposes.

"Revoke" or "revocation" means that the document or privilege revoked is not subject to renewal or restoration except through reapplication after the expiration of the period of revocation.

"Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the shoulder. A highway may include two or more roadways if divided by a physical barrier or barriers or an unpaved area.

"Safety zone" means the area officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and that is protected or is so marked or indicated by plainly visible signs.

"School bus" means any motor vehicle, other than a station wagon, automobile, truck, or commercial bus, which is: (i) designed and used primarily for the transportation of pupils to and from public, private or parochial schools, or used for the transportation of the mentally or physically handicapped to and from a sheltered workshop; (ii) painted yellow and bears the words "School Bus" in black letters of a specified size on front and rear; and (iii) is equipped with warning devices prescribed in § 46.2-1090. A yellow school bus may have a white roof provided such vehicle is painted in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Department of Education.

"Semitrailer" means every vehicle of the trailer type so designed and used in conjunction with a motor vehicle that some part of its own weight and that of its own load rests on or is carried by another vehicle.

"Shoulder" means that part of a highway between the portion regularly travelled by vehicular traffic and the lateral curbline or ditch.

"Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle designed to travel on snow or ice, steered by skis or runners, and supported in whole or in part by one or more skis, belts, or cleats.

"Specially constructed vehicle" means any vehicle that was not originally constructed under a

distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not a reconstructed vehicle as herein defined.

"Stinger-steered automobile or watercraft transporter" means an automobile or watercraft transporter configured as a semitrailer combination wherein the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame behind and below the rearmost axle of the power unit.

"Superintendent" means the Superintendent of the Department of State Police of the Commonwealth.

"Suspend" or "suspension" means that the document or privilege suspended has been temporarily withdrawn, but may be reinstated following the period of suspension unless it has expired prior to the end of the period of suspension.

"Towing and recovery operator" means a person engaged in the business of (i) removing disabled vehicles, parts of vehicles, their cargoes, and other objects to facilities for repair or safekeeping and (ii) restoring to the highway or other location where they either can be operated or removed to other locations for repair or safekeeping vehicles that have come to rest in places where they cannot be operated.

"Tractor truck" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the load and weight of the vehicle attached thereto.

"Traffic infraction" means a violation of law punishable as provided in § 46.2-113, which is neither a felony nor a misdemeanor.

"Traffic lane" or "lane" means that portion of a roadway designed or designated to accommodate the forward movement of a single line of vehicles.

"Trailer" means every vehicle without motive power designed for carrying property or passengers wholly on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, including manufactured homes.

"Truck" means every motor vehicle designed to transport property on its own structure independent of any other vehicle and having a registered gross weight in excess of 7,500 pounds.

"Truck lessor" means a person who holds the legal title to any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is the subject of a bona fide written lease for a term of one year or more to another person, provided that: (i) neither the lessor nor the lessee is a common carrier by motor vehicle or restricted common carrier by motor vehicle or contract carrier by motor vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000; (ii) the leased motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is used exclusively for the transportation of property of the lessee; (iii) the lessor is not employed in any capacity by the lessee; (iv) the operator of the leased motor vehicle is a bona fide employee of the lessee and is not employed in any capacity by the lessor; and (v) a true copy of the lease, verified by affidavit of the lessor, is filed with the Commissioner.

"Vehicle" means every device in, on or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn on a highway, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks. For the purposes of Chapter 8 (§ 46.2-800 et seq.) of this title, bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds shall be vehicles while operated on a highway.

"Wheel chair or wheel chair conveyance" means a chair or seat equipped with wheels, typically used to provide mobility for persons who, by reason of physical disability, are otherwise unable to move about as pedestrians. The term includes both three-wheeled and four-wheeled devices. So long as it is operated only as provided in § 46.2-677, a self-propelled wheel chair or self-propelled wheel chair conveyance shall not be considered a motor vehicle.

§ 46.2-800. Riding bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, or mopeds; riding or driving animals.

Every person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, or an animal or driving an animal on a highway shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter and shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, unless the context of the provision clearly indicates otherwise.

The provisions of subsections A and C of § 46.2-920 applicable to operation of emergency vehicles under emergency conditions shall also apply, mutatis mutandis, to bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds operated under similar emergency conditions by law-enforcement officers.

§ 46.2-839. Passing bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, animal or animal-drawn vehicle.

In approaching or passing a person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, animal or animal-drawn vehicle, the driver of a motor vehicle shall pass at a safe distance and at a reasonable speed.

§ 46.2-847. Left turns by bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds.

A person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle,

or moped and intending to turn left shall either follow a course described in § 46.2-846 or make the turn as provided in this section.

A person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped and intending to turn left shall approach the turn as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway. After proceeding across the intersecting roadway, the rider shall comply with traffic signs or signals and continue his turn as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway being entered.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the Commonwealth Transportation Board and local authorities, in their respective jurisdictions, may cause official traffic control devices to be placed at intersections to direct that a specific course be traveled by turning bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds. When such devices are so placed, no person shall turn a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped other than as directed by such devices.

§ 46.2-849. How signals given.

A. Signals required by § 46.2-848 shall be given by means of the hand and arm or by some mechanical or electrical device approved by the Superintendent, in the manner specified in this section. Whenever the signal is given by means of the hand and arm, the driver shall indicate his intention to start, stop, turn, or partly turn by extending the hand and arm beyond the left side of the vehicle in the manner following:

1. For left turn or to pull to the left, the arm shall be extended in a horizontal position straight from and level with the shoulder;

2. For right turn or to pull to the right, the arm shall be extended upward;

3. For slowing down or stopping, the arm shall be extended downward.

B. Wherever the lawful speed is more than 35 miles per hour, such signals shall be given continuously for a distance of at least 100 feet, and in all other cases at least fifty feet, before slowing down, stopping, turning, or partly turning.

C. A person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped shall signal his intention to stop or turn. Such signals, however, need not be given continuously if both hands are needed in the control or operation of the bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped.

§ 46.2-856. Passing two vehicles abreast.

A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who passes or attempts to pass two other vehicles abreast, moving in the same direction, except on highways having separate roadways of three or more lanes for each direction of travel, or on designated one-way streets or highways. This section shall not apply, however, to a motor vehicle passing two other vehicles when one or both of such other vehicles is a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped; nor shall this section apply to a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped passing two other vehicles.

§ 46.2-857. Driving two abreast in a single lane.

A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who drives any motor vehicle, including any motorcycle, so as to be abreast of another vehicle in a lane designed for one vehicle, or drives any motor vehicle, including any motorcycle, so as to travel abreast of any other vehicle traveling in a lane designed for one vehicle. However, this section shall not apply to any validly authorized parade, motorcade, or motorcycle escort, nor shall it apply to a motor vehicle traveling in the same lane of traffic as a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped.

§ 46.2-903. Riding or driving vehicles other than bicycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, or electric personal assistive mobility devices on sidewalks.

No person shall ride or drive any vehicle other than (i) an emergency vehicle, as defined in § 46.2-920, (ii) a vehicle engaged in snow or ice removal and control operations, (iii) a wheel chair or wheel chair conveyance, whether self-propelled or otherwise, (iv) a bicycle, (v) *an electric personal assistive mobility device*, or (vi) an electric power-assisted bicycle on the sidewalks of any county, city, or town of the Commonwealth.

§ 46.2-904. Use of roller skates and skateboards on sidewalks; operation of bicycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, and electric personal assistive mobility devices on sidewalks and crosswalks; local ordinances.

The governing body of any county, city, or town may by ordinance prohibit the use of roller skates and skateboards and/or the riding of bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, or electric power-assisted bicycles on designated sidewalks or crosswalks, including those of any church, school, recreational facility, or any business property open to the public where such activity is prohibited. Signs indicating such prohibition shall be conspicuously posted in general areas where use of roller skates and skateboards, and/or bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility devices* or electric power-assisted bicycle

riding is prohibited.

A person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, or an electric power-assisted bicycle on a sidewalk, or across a roadway on a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian.

No person shall ride a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, or an electric power-assisted bicycle on a sidewalk, or across a roadway on a crosswalk, where such use of bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, or electric power-assisted bicycles is prohibited by official traffic control devices.

A person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, or an electric power-assisted bicycle on a sidewalk, or across a roadway on a crosswalk, shall have all the rights and duties of a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

A violation of any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be punishable by a civil penalty of not more than \$50.

§ 46.2-905. Riding bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds on roadways and bicycle paths.

Any person operating a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped on a roadway shall ride as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway, except under any of the following circumstances:

1. When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
2. When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway; and
3. When reasonably necessary to avoid conditions including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or substandard width lanes that make it unsafe to continue along the right curb or edge.

For purposes of this section, a "substandard width lane" is a lane too narrow for a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped and another vehicle to pass safely side by side within the lane.

Persons riding bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, or electric power-assisted bicycles on a highway shall not ride two or more abreast except on paths or parts of highways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, and electric power-assisted bicycles.

The governing body of any locality may by ordinance provide that wherever a usable path for bicycles, *electric personal assistive mobility devices*, and electric power-assisted bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders, *electric personal assistive mobility device riders*, and electric power-assisted bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.

*Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Conservation and Recreation shall permit the operation of electric personal assistive mobility devices on any bicycle path or trail designated by the Department for such use.*

§ 46.2-906. Carrying articles on bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds.

No person operating a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped on a highway shall carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.

§ 46.2-906.1. Local ordinances may require riders of bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, and electric power-assisted bicycles to wear helmets.

The governing body of any county, city or town may, by ordinance, provide that every person fourteen years of age or younger shall wear a protective helmet that meets the standards promulgated by the American National Standards Institute or the Snell Memorial Foundation whenever riding or being carried on a bicycle, *an electric personal assistive mobility device*, or an electric power-assisted bicycle on any highway as defined in § 46.2-100, sidewalk, or public bicycle path.

Violation of any such ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars. However, such fine shall be suspended (i) for first-time violators and (ii) for violators who, subsequent to the violation but prior to imposition of the fine, purchase helmets of the type required by the ordinance.

Violation of any such ordinance shall not constitute negligence, or assumption of risk, be considered in mitigation of damages of whatever nature, be admissible in evidence, or be the subject of comment by counsel in any action for the recovery of damages arising out of the operation of any bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, or electric power-assisted bicycle, nor shall anything in this section change any existing law, rule, or procedure pertaining to any civil action.

§ 46.2-907. Overtaking and passing vehicles.

A person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped may overtake and pass another vehicle on either the left or right side, staying in the same lane as the overtaken vehicle, or changing to a different lane, or riding off the roadway as necessary to pass

423 with safety.

424 A person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle,  
425 or moped may overtake and pass another vehicle only under conditions that permit the movement to be  
426 made with safety.

427 A person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle,  
428 or moped shall not travel between two lanes of traffic moving in the same direction, except where one  
429 lane is a separate turn lane or a mandatory turn lane.

430 Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person riding a bicycle, *electric personal assistive*  
431 *mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped shall comply with all rules applicable to the  
432 driver of a motor vehicle when overtaking and passing.

433 § 46.2-908. Registration of bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, and electric  
434 power-assisted bicycle serial numbers.

435 Any person who owns a bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, or electric power-assisted  
436 bicycle may register its serial number with the local law-enforcement agency of the political subdivision  
437 in which such person resides.

438 § 46.2-908.1. Electric personal assistive mobility devices and electric power-assisted bicycles.

439 All *electric personal assistive mobility devices* and electric power-assisted bicycles shall be equipped  
440 with spill-proof, sealed, or gel batteries. No person shall at any time or at any location drive an *electric*  
441 *personal assistive mobility device* or an electric power-assisted bicycle faster than twenty-five miles per  
442 hour. No person less than fourteen years old shall drive any *electric personal assistive mobility device* or  
443 electric power-assisted bicycle unless under the immediate supervision of a person who is at least  
444 eighteen years old.

445 An *electric personal assistive mobility device* may be operated on any highway with a maximum  
446 speed limit of twenty-five miles per hour or less. An *electric personal assistive mobility device* shall only  
447 operate on any highway authorized by this section if a sidewalk is not provided along such highway or  
448 if operation of the device on such sidewalk is prohibited pursuant to § 46.2-904. Nothing in this section  
449 shall prohibit the operation of an *electric personal assistive mobility device* in the crosswalk of any  
450 highway where the use of such crosswalk is authorized for pedestrians, bicycles, or electric  
451 power-assisted bicycles.

452 § 46.2-932. Playing on highways; roller skates, skateboards, toys, or other devices on wheels or  
453 runners; persons riding bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted  
454 bicycles, mopeds, etc., not to attach to vehicles; exception.

455 A. No person shall play on a highway, other than on the sidewalks thereof, within a city or town or  
456 on any part of a highway outside the limits of a city or town designated by the Commonwealth  
457 Transportation Commissioner exclusively for vehicular travel. No person shall use roller skates,  
458 skateboards, toys, or other devices on wheels or runners, except bicycles, *electric personal assistive*  
459 *mobility devices*, electric power-assisted bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles, on highways where play is  
460 prohibited. The governing bodies of counties, cities, and towns may designate areas on highways under  
461 their control where play is permitted and may impose reasonable restrictions on play on such highways.  
462 If the highways have only two traffic lanes, persons using such devices, except bicycles, *electric*  
463 *personal assistive mobility devices*, electric power-assisted bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles, shall keep  
464 as near as reasonably possible to the extreme left side or edge of the left traffic lane so that they will be  
465 facing oncoming traffic at all times.

466 No person riding on any bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted  
467 bicycle, moped, roller skates, skateboards, toys, or other devices on wheels or runners, shall attach the  
468 same or himself to any vehicle on a roadway.

469 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this section, the governing body of any county  
470 having a population of at least 170,000 but less than 200,000 may by ordinance permit the use of  
471 devices on wheels or runners on highways under such county's control, subject to such limitations and  
472 conditions as the governing body may deem necessary and reasonable.

473 § 46.2-1015. Lights on bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted  
474 bicycles, and mopeds.

475 Every bicycle, *electric personal assistive mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, and moped  
476 when in use between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with a white light on the front that shall be  
477 visible in clear weather from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the  
478 rear. Such reflector shall be of a type approved by the Superintendent and shall be visible in clear  
479 weather from fifty feet to 300 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful high beams of head lights  
480 on a motor vehicle. A red light visible in clear weather for 500 feet to the rear may be used in lieu of  
481 or in addition to the red reflector. Such lights and reflector shall be of types approved by the  
482 Superintendent.

483 § 46.2-1066. Brakes.



484 Every motor vehicle when driven on a highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control  
485 the movements of and to stop and hold such vehicle. The brakes shall be maintained in good working  
486 order and shall conform to the provisions of this article.

487 Every bicycle, electric power-assisted bicycle, and moped, when operated on a highway, shall be  
488 equipped with a brake that will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean  
489 pavement. *Every electric personal assistive mobility device, when operated on a highway, shall be*  
490 *equipped with a system that, when activated or engaged, will enable the operator to bring the device to*  
491 *a controlled stop.*

492 § 46.2-1078. Unlawful to operate motor vehicle, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device,  
493 electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped while using earphones.

494 It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle, bicycle, *electric personal assistive*  
495 *mobility device*, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped on the highways in the Commonwealth while  
496 using earphones on or in both ears.

497 For the purpose of this section, "earphones" shall mean any device worn on or in both ears that  
498 converts electrical energy to sound waves or which impairs or hinders the person's ability to hear, but  
499 shall not include (i) any prosthetic device that aids the hard of hearing, (ii) earphones installed in  
500 helmets worn by motorcycle operators and riders and used as part of a communications system, or (iii)  
501 nonprosthetic, closed-ear, open-back, electronic noise-cancellation devices designed and used to enhance  
502 the hearing ability of persons who operate vehicles in high-noise environments, provided any such  
503 device is being worn by the operator of a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds  
504 or more. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the driver of any emergency vehicle as defined  
505 in § 46.2-920.