

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

2019 Wisconsin Act 11



WHAT IS AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER?



THIS IS AN “ELECTRIC SCOOTER”

State law definition:

- Weighs less than 100 pounds
- Has handlebars and an electric motor
- Powered solely by the electric motor and human power
- Maximum speed of 20 mph on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor



SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM DEFINITION OF "ELECTRIC SCOOTERS"



WHAT IS AN ELECTIC SCOOTER?

- Riders can purchase a variety of electric scooters at brick and mortar locations and online
 - Razor (\$150)
 - Xiaomi (\$399)
 - GOTRAX (\$298)
 - Macwheel (379)
- Riders can rent electric scooters from ride-sharing companies
 - Bird
 - Lime
 - Lyft (owned by Lyft)
 - JUMP (owned by Uber)



WHICH LAWS CHANGED?



2019 WISCONSIN ACT 11

- Prior to Act 11:
 - Electronic scooters fit under the general definition of a “motor vehicle.” No special definition.
 - There was no way to legally register this type of motor vehicle because it lacks headlights, turn signals, etc.
 - Riding an electric scooter on the road or sidewalk was a violation of Wis. Stat. § 341.04(1), which makes it illegal to operate an unregistered motor vehicle on a highway.
- After Act 11:
 - Electronic scooters are defined separately and distinctly from motor vehicles and exempt from registration
 - Generally treated the same as bicycles and EPAMDs for rules of the road

CITY'S OPTIONS



COMMON ISSUES WITH ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

- Motorists do not know how to hand electric scooters
 - Drivers should treat them like bicycle riders
- Riders do not know how to use scooters safely
 - Every manufacturer recommends wearing a helmet; use is infrequent
 - Riders do not know whether to use the road or sidewalk
 - Riders do not follow traffic laws
- Rental companies can produce congestion and waste

STATE LAW ALLOWS CITY TO ENACT LAWS THAT:

- Regulate the rental and operation of electric scooters in a manner consistent with the regulation of bicycles
- Restrict or prohibit the operation of electric scooters on any city street having a speed limit of more than 25 mph
- Restrict or prohibit the operation of electric scooters on any sidewalk or bicycle way
 - State law allows this by default
- Establish requirements for and limitations on the parking of electric scooters on city roadways, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, or bicycle ways.
- Restrict or prohibit the short-term commercial rental of electric scooters to the general public.