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HOUSE BILL 1344

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins and Moeller

Read first time 01/19/09. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to enclosed, three-wheeled passenger vehicles;  
2 amending RCW 46.04.330; reenacting and amending RCW 46.20.500; adding  
3 a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter  
4 44.28 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8            "Enclosed, three-wheeled passenger vehicle" means a vehicle that  
9 has three wheels in contact with the ground, an enclosed passenger  
10 seating area, a steering wheel utilized to maneuver the vehicle, and a  
11 motor unit or power train that is either in front or behind the driver,  
12 and is manufactured at a minimum of one hundred vehicles annually.

13            **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.04.330 and 2003 c 141 s 3 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15            "Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle designed to travel on not more  
16 than three wheels in contact with the ground, on which the driver rides  
17 astride the motor unit or power train and is designed to be steered

1 with a handle bar, but excluding a farm tractor, a power wheelchair, an  
2 electric personal assistive mobility device, an enclosed, three-wheeled  
3 passenger vehicle, and a moped.

4 The Washington state patrol may approve of and define as a  
5 "motorcycle" a motor vehicle that fails to meet these specific  
6 criteria, but that is essentially similar in performance and  
7 application to motor vehicles that do meet these specific criteria.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.20.500 and 2003 c 353 s 9, 2003 c 141 s 7, and 2003  
9 c 41 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

10 (1) No person may drive either a two-wheeled or a three-wheeled  
11 motorcycle, or a motor-driven cycle unless such person has a valid  
12 driver's license specially endorsed by the director to enable the  
13 holder to drive such vehicles.

14 (2) However, a person sixteen years of age or older, holding a  
15 valid driver's license of any class issued by the state of the person's  
16 residence, may operate a moped without taking any special examination  
17 for the operation of a moped.

18 (3) No driver's license is required for operation of an electric-  
19 assisted bicycle if the operator is at least sixteen years of age.  
20 Persons under sixteen years of age may not operate an electric-assisted  
21 bicycle.

22 (4) No driver's license is required to operate an electric personal  
23 assistive mobility device or a power wheelchair.

24 (5) No driver's license is required to operate a motorized foot  
25 scooter. Motorized foot scooters may not be operated at any time from  
26 a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise without  
27 reflectors of a type approved by the state patrol.

28 (6) A person holding a valid driver's license may operate an  
29 enclosed, three-wheeled passenger vehicle without a motorcycle  
30 endorsement.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 44.28 RCW  
32 to read as follows:

33 Before the 2014 legislative session, the joint committee shall  
34 review and recommend to the legislature whether to maintain or repeal

1 the motorcycle endorsement exemption for enclosed, three-wheeled  
2 passenger vehicles contained in RCW 46.20.500.

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