
Transportation Committee

HB 1057

Brief Description: Modifying authority regarding where mopeds may be operated.

Sponsors: Representatives Haler, Holy and Johnson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows local authorities to adopt an ordinance permitting mopeds to ride on bicycle paths, bikeways, equestrian trails, and hiking or recreational trails.
- Allows mopeds to be operated in a bicycle lane, unless prohibited by a local ordinance.

Hearing Date: 1/14/15

Staff: Andrew Russell (786-7143).

Background:

A "moped" is defined in statute as a device with fewer than four wheels, producing less than two horsepower, that is capable of traveling up to 30 miles per hour. A moped qualifies as a type of "vehicle" under state law, but it is specifically excluded from the definition of a "motorcycle." A moped may be operated on a state highway only if the vehicle is registered with the Department of Licensing and properly displays a license plate. Mopeds may not be operated, however, on a fully controlled limited-access highway, bicycle trail, bikeway, equestrian trail, or hiking or recreational trail.

Summary of Bill:

Local authorities may enact an ordinance permitting the operation of mopeds on bicycle paths, bikeways, equestrian trails, and hiking or recreational trails. Additionally, mopeds may travel in a bicycle lane on a public highway, unless local authorities have enacted an ordinance prohibiting such travel.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on August 1, 2015.