

SENATE FILE  
BY HOLVECK

2182

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the applicability of motor vehicle laws to  
2 persons operating wheelchairs.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 2182  
NAT. RES. & ENVIRONMENT

1 Section 1. Section 321.1, subsection 20B, Code Supplement  
2 2003, is amended to read as follows:

3 20B. "Electric personal assistive mobility device" means a  
4 self-balancing device powered by an electric propulsion system  
5 that averages seven hundred fifty watts, has two nontandem  
6 wheels, and is designed to transport one person, with a  
7 maximum speed on a paved level surface of less than twenty  
8 miles per hour. The maximum speed shall be calculated based  
9 on operation of the device by a person who weighs one hundred  
10 seventy pounds when the device is powered solely by the  
11 electric propulsion system. For purposes of this chapter,  
12 "electric personal assistive mobility device" does not include  
13 an assistive device as defined in section 216E.1.

14 Sec. 2. Section 321.1, subsection 42, paragraph a, Code  
15 Supplement 2003, is amended to read as follows:

16 a. "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle which is self-  
17 propelled, but not including a motorized wheelchair, or  
18 vehicles known as trackless trolleys which are propelled by  
19 electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires and are  
20 not operated upon rails.

21 Sec. 3. Section 321.1, subsection 51, Code Supplement  
22 2003, is amended to read as follows:

23 51. "Pedestrian" means any a person afoot or a person  
24 operating a wheelchair.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill amends several definitions in Code chapter 321 to  
27 exempt persons operating motorized wheelchairs from laws and  
28 regulations applicable to motor vehicles and electric personal  
29 assistive mobility devices.

30 The bill amends the definition of pedestrian to include a  
31 person in a wheelchair, thus subjecting such persons to Code  
32 chapter 321 provisions relating to pedestrians. The  
33 definition of "motor vehicle" is amended to specify that a  
34 motorized wheelchair is not a motor vehicle. The bill also  
35 provides that an assistive device, such as a wheelchair, that

1 is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional  
2 capabilities of an individual with a disability is not an  
3 electric personal assistive mobility device.

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