

## SEGWAY LAW

On July 3, Governor Engler signed SB 1016 into law, becoming 2002 PA 494. This law adds one new section to the Michigan Vehicle Code, and amends several other sections to provide for the Segway Human Transporter.

### What is it?

The law is specific to the Segway Human Transporter, a type of motorized scooter that uses gyroscopes to maintain balance. The operator stands on a platform with wheels on each side. Controls on the handlebars control turning. Speed and direction of travel are controlled by leaning either forward or backward. The law does not make provisions for other types of motorized scooters, commonly called “gopeds,” which remain illegal to operate on streets, sidewalks, and bike paths.



- The device is defined as an “Electric personal assistive mobility device.” This definition is narrowly tailored to refer specifically to the Segway, and does not include other types of motorized scooters currently available or devices designed to assist people with disabilities (257.13c).
- The device is excluded from the definition of a “Motor Vehicle” (257.33).

### Where can they be operated? What are the restrictions?

The law treats these devices in a manner similar to bicycles, with some exceptions, subjecting the operator to all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle on a highway, except for special regulations and those that don't apply (257.657). May also be allowed on sidewalks, subject to local restrictions.

- Only one person may ride at one time (257.658).
- Required to ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising caution when passing a vehicle (257.660(1)).
- Prohibited from riding more than two abreast (257.660(2)).
- Prohibited from passing between lines of traffic, but allowed to pass on the left of same-direction traffic on a two-way street, and on either side of traffic on a one-way street (257.660(4)).
- Allowed on sidewalk, but must yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing a pedestrian (257.660(5)).
- Restricted to 15mph (257.660(9)).
- Prohibited from carrying a package that prevents use of both hands on the handlebars (257.661).
- Prohibited from use during hours of darkness without proper lights and reflectors (257.662).

### Where can't they be operated?

- May be restricted to a bike path adjacent to a roadway under local ordinance (257.660(3)).
- Prohibited from roads with speed limits greater than 25 mph (257.660(9)).
- May be prohibited from certain roads and sidewalks if regulated by a local ordinance (257.660(10)).
- Prohibited on Mackinac Island (257.660(11)).
- May be prohibited from a historic district under local ordinance (257.660(12)).
- May be prohibited on lands under DNR control by order (257.660(13)).

### Who can operate them?

The law does not provide any restriction or requirement for age, licensing, training, restraint equipment, helmet, registration, title, or insurance for the Segway Human Transporter.

### What are the enforcement issues?

The Segway Human Transporter is specifically excluded from the definition of a Motor Vehicle under 257.33, but still meets the definition of a Vehicle under 257.79. Check with the local prosecutor for the applicability of specific sections before taking enforcement action.

The Public Act can be viewed at the following website.

<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/documents/2001-2002/publicact/pdf/2002-PA-0494.pdf>