

Fact Sheet

Segway Vehicles

S.2028 An Act regulating Segway Devices

The problem: Pedestrian-Segway conflicts on sidewalks

- Proponents of the Segway, aka an “Electric personal assistive mobility device” (EPAMD), are proposing that these vehicles operate on the sidewalks of Massachusetts cities and towns.
- The state’s communities have a large number of pedestrians using their sidewalks.
- There is little physical space to accommodate both Segway vehicles and pedestrians on the sidewalks of the Commonwealth.

Need for legislation in Massachusetts

- Operation of vehicles such as EPAMDs on sidewalks in the Commonwealth is potentially harmful and dangerous for pedestrians.
- For the safety of pedestrians, EPAMDs should be prohibited from operating on sidewalks in the Commonwealth.

Bill summary

- Operation of vehicles such as EPAMDs on sidewalks in the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.
- Public ways other than sidewalks may be used by EPAMDs except where signs specifically prohibiting bicycles, scooters or EPAMDS have been posted.
- EPAMDS are subject to traffic laws and regulations of the Commonwealth, with specific exceptions.
- Penalties are prescribed for the first and subsequent violations of this statute.
- Cities and towns may opt out of these requirements.

Other jurisdictions

- New York City, San Francisco and the Netherlands have prohibited Segways from all sidewalks.
- The use of Segways on sidewalks is opposed by the American Council for the Blind and AmericaWalks, among others.