


Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To authorize the operation of personal delivery devices on certain public space in the District of Columbia and to establish operational standards for the devices.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Personal Delivery Device Act of 2016”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For purposes of this act, the term:

(1) “Central business district” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 9901 of Title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (18 DCMR § 9901).

(2) “Crosswalk” means that part of a roadway at an intersection included within the lateral lines connecting sidewalks on opposite sides of the roadway.

(3) “Operator” means a person who has the ability to control the operations of a personal delivery device through the use of remote control technology.

(4) “Pedestrian” means any person afoot or who is using a wheelchair.

(5) “Personal delivery device” means a device powered by an electric motor, for use primarily on sidewalks, capable of transporting items with or without an operator directly

34 controlling the device; identifying and yielding to pedestrians, bicyclists, other lawful users of
35 public space, and property; navigating public thoroughfares; and interpreting traffic signals and
36 signs at crosswalks.

37 (6) "Public thoroughfare" means any street, road, alley, paved public space, or sidewalk
38 that is under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.

39 Sec. 3. Personal delivery devices permitted.

40 (a) Except within the central business district, a personal delivery device ("PDD") that
41 complies with subsection (b) of this section may operate on sidewalks and crosswalks, and
42 transitorily on public thoroughfares interconnected to sidewalks and crosswalks, .

43 (b) To operate in the District, a PDD shall:

44 (1) Be operated in a safe and non-hazardous manner so as not to endanger
45 pedestrians, bicyclists, other lawful users of public space, or property;

46 (2) Not operate above a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour;

47 (3) Have a gross weight of less than 50 pounds, excluding cargo;

48 (4) Not interfere with pedestrian or bicycle traffic;

49 (5) Yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on a roadway upon entering
50 a crosswalk to the extent necessary to safely cross the roadway, except when crossing pursuant to
51 a crosswalk pedestrian signal;

52 (6) Have a system that alerts the operator if a technology failure or loss of
53 communication occurs, and when such alert is given, that:

54 (A) Requires the operator to assume direct control of the PDD; and

55 (B) If the operator is unable to assume control of the device, causes the
56 PDD to safely come to an off-roadway stop; and

57 (7) Obey all traffic and pedestrian control signals and signs.

58 (c) In the case of a technology failure or other circumstance that causes the PDD to come
59 to a stop in a location other than property owned by the owner of the PDD, the owner of the PDD
60 shall remove the PDD within 24 hours.

61 Sec. 4. Rules

62 The District Department of Transportation, pursuant to Title I of the District of Columbia
63 Administrative Procedure Act, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1204; D.C. Official Code
64 §2-501 et seq.), may issue rules to implement the provisions of this Act.

65 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

66 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
67 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
68 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

69 Sec. 6. Effective date.

70 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
71 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
72 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
73 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
74 Columbia Register.