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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Transportation, Tourism,
Forestry, and Natural Resources (SC-TTFNR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (June/2012)

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources

Senate Bill 137

Relating to: the definitions of motor bicycle and moped.

By Senators Harsdorf, Holperin, Schultz, Taylor and A. Lasee; cosponsored by Representatives Sherman, Berceau, Ballweg, A. Ott and Townsend.

March 26, 2009 Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

April 16, 2009 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (6) Senators Holperin, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (1) Senator Sullivan.

Appearances For

- Matt Wobke — On behalf of Senator Shelia Harsdorf
- Carson Frazier — Wisconsin DOT

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- None.

Registrations Against

- Jeff Wiswell, Madison — Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 30, 2009 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Sullivan, seconded by Senator Leibham that **Senate Bill 137** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

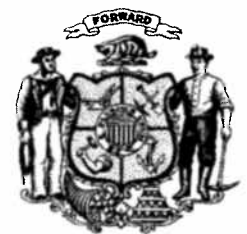
Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Elizabeth Novak
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Date: April 16, 2009

To: Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources

Fr: State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Re: Senate Bill 137 – Definitions of motor bicycle and moped

Chair Holperin and Committee members:

I would like to thank you for holding a public hearing and allowing me to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 137, which would amend the definitions of motor bicycle and moped in state statutes. I regret that I am unable to attend in person, due to a previous commitment in my district.

SB 137 is an important piece of legislation that seeks to enable the use of low-speed electric bicycles on Wisconsin streets and roadways. Under the bill, the definition of motor bicycles would be expanded to include two- or three-wheeled vehicles that have fully operative pedals, an electric motor of less than 750 watts, and a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour on a level surface. This definition would bring Wisconsin statutes into line with federal law relating to low-speed electric bicycles.

Currently, low-speed electric bicycles are considered to be mopeds under state law. Due to this classification, low-speed electric bicycles are required to be registered with the DMV as a vehicle. However, since low-speed electric bicycles do not have titles or vehicle identification numbers (VIN) they cannot be registered. As a result, individuals utilizing these emissions-free vehicles in their neighborhoods and towns have been cited by law enforcement for operating an unregistered vehicle. Under this legislation, individuals using low-speed electric bicycles would still need to have a valid Wisconsin driver's license to legally operate these vehicles.

This legislation has received broad support in the past, as evidenced in 2005, when an identical bill was passed by the State Assembly on a 97-0 vote and received a 5-0 vote in the Senate Committee on Transportation. Unfortunately, the State Senate did not take up the bill prior to the end of the 2005-06 session. Additionally, the Department of Transportation has expressed their support for this legislation.

In closing, this legislation will not only bring our state statutes into line with federal law in regards to low-speed electric bicycles, but it will also encourage the use of environmentally-friendly transportation.

I would like to thank you for holding a public hearing on SB 137 and urge your support and passage of this legislation.

Randy Leonard
319 Mariah Ct.
River Falls, WI 54022

April 16, 2009

The Office of Senator Sheila Harsdorf
Madison, WI

Re: Senate Bill 137

Dear Senator Harsdorf:

Thank you for the opportunity to support your efforts, and the efforts of Senators Holperin, Schultz and A. Lasee along with the efforts of Representatives Sherman, Berceau, Ballweg, A. Ott, and Townsend towards the enactment of legislation for "Low-Speed Electric Bicycles".

I believe very strongly that Wisconsin will benefit from the legalization of these "earth-friendly" forms of local transportation. Being environmentally responsible is important to me and too many residents of the community in which I reside, River Falls, WI. We truly strive to be more aware of our long lasting impact on the earth. Providing and encouraging the use of alternative forms of transportation, which limit the negative effect of our commutes, is the right thing for us all to do.

The Federal government began to "pave the way" for this to happen with the passing of Public Law 107-319 and the Federal Electric Bicycle Law (HR727) in 2001. Many states enacted laws to allow the use of these vehicles, in various forms and with various restrictions since then. Wisconsin made an attempt in 2005 with Assembly Bill 95, but failed to concur in pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1 in 2006.

In conclusion, the time is right, the vehicles are ready, the people are in support, and I praise you for your actions to put through Senate Bill 137 on the topic of "Low-Speed Electric Bicycles". Wisconsin will move towards taking its rightful place as a "Green State", Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randy Leonard

In this age of "going green" low speed electric bikes make sense. I know an individual that has one and the fact that he can go 30 miles on a charge and it costs about 25 cents to recharge the battery and is emission free makes you wonder how we can say no to this. I have talked to people from local law enforcement to DOT in Madison and nobody is opposed to the idea it's just that we need to recognize low speed electric bikes by statute.

Mike Moody
W9317 State Road 29
River Falls, WI 54022