



DEVICE	DEFINITION	OVERVIEW OF CURRENT LAW	PA VEHICLE CODE
Bicycle 	Classified as a “pedalcycle” in §102 of Title 75; defined as a vehicle propelled solely by human-powered pedals or a pedalcycle with electric assist. Does not include a tricycle designed for young children.	• Helmets required under 12. • Must only carry number of riders pedalcycle is designed and equipped for, exception for adult rider transporting a securely attached child via carrier or trailer. • White front light, rear red reflector, and amber reflectors required if operated between sunset and sunrise. • Must be ridden on or astride a permanent seat; may have audible signal device but cannot have a siren; must have brakes (see § 3507 for additional detail on brake requirements). • Can be ridden on sidewalk outside business district but must yield to pedestrians, allowed on sidewalks in business district if permitted by official traffic-control devices; allowed to ride in bike lane; cannot be ridden on a freeway except for approved events or if authorized via the procedures outlined in § 3511. • Allowed to operate on the shoulder but must follow the direction of traffic; if operating at slower than prevailing speed, must operate on the right side of the road; cannot be operated more than two abreast except on pedalcycle lanes or paths. • DUI possible.	§ 102 § 1547 §§3501-3514 § 3802
E-Bike 	Classified as a “pedalcycle with electric assist” in §102 of Title 75; defined as a vehicle weighing no more than 100 pounds with two or three wheels more than 11 inches in diameter, manufactured or assembled with an electric motor system rated at not more than 750 watts and equipped with operable pedals and capable of a speed not more than 20 miles per hour on a level surface when powered by the motor source only.	• Minimum age to operate is 16. • All laws for pedalcycles (see bicycle row) apply to pedalcycles with electric assist. • Limited to a max capable speed of 20 miles per hour on a level surface when powered by the motor source only. • DUI possible.	§ 102 § 1547 § 3501 § 3514 § 3802
Motorized Pedalcycle 	Classified as a “motorized pedalcycle” in §102 of Title 75; defined as an electric or non-electric motor-driven cycle equipped with operable pedals and an automatic transmission, with a maximum design speed of no more than 25 miles per hour. Non-electric motorized pedalcycles must have a motor rated no more than 1.5 brake horsepower and a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc. A motorized pedalcycle is a type of motor-driven cycle, and therefore also a type of motorcycle.	• Minimum age to operate is 16. • All laws that apply to motor-driven cycles (see motor scooter row) apply to motorized pedalcycles aside from the following: - Cannot be operated on any limited access highway. - Helmet and protective eye gear not required. - Inspection requirements currently suspended. - Exempt from registration requirements. - Requires a Class C license. - Max capable speed of 25mph. • DUI possible.	§ 102 § 1504 § 1547 §§ 3521-3525 § 3802

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Motor Scooter 	Classified as a “motor-driven cycle” in §102 of Title 75; defined as a motorcycle with a motor that does not exceed five brake horsepower. Like all motorcycles, it must have a seat or saddle, and either be designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground OR designed to travel on two wheels in contact with the ground with the addition of two stabilizing wheels on the rear of the motor vehicle.	• Minimum age to operate is 16. • Requires a Class M license if greater than 50cc; requires a Class C license if less than 50cc. • Registration and insurance required; registration must be carried with the vehicle at all times while operated on the highway, annual registration fee required. • Exempt from titling requirements. • Helmet required for riders under 21. • Riders 21 or older who have either been licensed to operate a motorcycle for two full calendar years or longer, have completed a motorcycle rider safety course approved by PennDOT or the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, or who are a passenger of a person exempt in either category are not required to wear a helmet. • Passenger allowed behind or to the side of operator if vehicle is designed to carry an additional passenger; must have footrests and handholds for passenger. • Lights and eye-protective device required. • Cannot operate on the sidewalk or in bike lanes, must ride only upon the permanent and regular seat, cannot ride more than two abreast in a single lane. • DUI possible.	§ 102 § 1301 § 1504 § 1547 § 1786 §§ 3521-3525 § 3802
Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device 	Classified as an “electric personal assistive mobility device” in §102 of Title 75; defined as a self-balancing, two-nontandem-wheeled device designed to transport only one person with an electric propulsion system.	• Helmets required under 12. • Passenger not allowed. • Front light, red rear reflector, and reflector on each side required between sunset and sunrise. • Allowed to ride on sidewalks (unless municipality prohibits it) and in bike lanes; cannot be operated on a freeway. • DUI possible.	§ 102 § 1547 §§ 3581-3583 § 3703(c) § 3802
Electric Scooter 	Not specifically classified or defined in the PA Vehicle Code.	• DUI possible.	§ 1547 § 3802

My device isn't listed here or isn't defined in the PA Vehicle Code. Is it legal? Devices and vehicles not defined in Pennsylvania law may not be legally operated on highways [as defined in the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code \(see Title 75 at <https://www.palegis.us/statutes/consolidated>\)](#), including sidewalks, bike lanes, and roads.

Why can I get a DUI on a device not defined in Pennsylvania Code? Pennsylvania's DUI (§ 3802) and chemical testing (§ 1547) laws apply to anyone driving, operating, or in actual physical control of the movement of a vehicle, which here means a device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway. While devices used exclusively upon rails or tracks as well as self-propelled wheelchairs and electrical mobility devices operated by and designed for the exclusive use of a person with a mobility-related disability are excepted from this definition, the category of “vehicle” in the Commonwealth includes horse drawn buggies, pedalcycles, and other micromobility devices in addition to traditional motor vehicles like cars.

Should I wear a helmet while operating my device? While legal requirements vary by device, wearing a helmet is always the safest choice.