



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 849

PRINTERS NO. 2731

PRIME SPONSOR: Fleck

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Provides for the definition, regulation and operation of “neighborhood electric vehicles” (NEVs) in the Commonwealth. This legislation would take effect in 180 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation:

- requires a NEV operating on any highway or roadway where the speed limit is 25 miles per hour or less to have a slow moving vehicle emblem affixed, as prescribed under Section 4529;
- states that an operator of a NEV shall not drive on a road between sunset and sunrise;
- requires NEVs to be in compliance with federal equipment requirements and standards;
- requires a NEV to be equipped with brakes, pneumatic tires, windshield wipers, an odometer, speedometer, and a VIN number stamped on the body, frame, engine or motor;
- requires a NEV driver to possess a valid license certificate of title, registration and insurance; and
- prohibits operation of a NEV where the number of passengers exceeds the number of safety belts.

This legislation would amend Chapters 102 and 35 of the Vehicle Code (Title 75) to create a new subchapter entitled “Operation of neighborhood electric vehicles”, and to provide for regulation and operation of neighborhood electric vehicles.

The bill defines a NEV as a four-wheeled electric vehicle that has a maximum design speed of not less than 20 miles per hour and of not more than 25 miles per hour and that complies with the Federal safety standards established in 49 CFR 571.500 (relating to standard no. 500; low-speed vehicles).

The bill authorizes travel in NEVs on roadways with a posted speed limit of no more than 25 mph and allows NEVs to cross roadways posted with a higher maximum speed if that crossing is stopped by a traffic-control signal. NEVs will be required to be equipped with most basic safety equipment, such as brakes, pneumatic tires, windshield wipers, mirrors, seatbelts, windshield and wipers, speedometer, odometer, headlamps, stop lamps, turn signals and reflectors, among other federal requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse impact on Commonwealth or local funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: November 14, 2011

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.