

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R6110 MTB-F

S.B. 1161
By: Truan
State Affairs
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Current law recognizes low-speed vehicles driven by internal combustion engines as having certain rights to operate on streets and roadways. However, equivalent low-speed electric vehicles are not recognized under Texas traffic law, and are not legally operable on Texas roadways. As proposed, S.B. 1161 permits use of low-speed electric vehicles under the same rights and constraints as mopeds.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 541.201, Transportation Code, by amending Subdivisions (8) - (23) and by adding Subdivision (24), as follows:

- (8) Defines "low-speed electric vehicle."
- (9) Original text redesignated as (10). Redefines "moped."
- (10)-(23) Redesignated as (11)-(24), respectively.

SECTION 2. Amends the heading to Chapter 551, Transportation Code, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 551. OPERATION OF BICYCLES, MOPEDS, PLAY VEHICLES, AND LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLES

SECTION 3. Amends Chapter 551A, Transportation Code, by adding Section 551.003, as follows:

Sec. 551.003. **LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLE INCLUDED.** Provides that a provision of this subtitle applicable to a bicycle also applies to a low-speed electric vehicle, other than a provision that by its nature cannot apply to a low-speed electric vehicle.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2001.