

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
84R17433 AAF-D

C.S.S.B. 449
By: Bettencourt
Transportation
4/2/2015
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The popularity of three-wheeled motorcycles is growing in Texas and manufacturers are developing numerous models of these "trikes."

On July 11, 2014, Polaris received approval from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to add their new Slingshot model to their existing line of motorcycles they are authorized to sell.

Subsequently, on November 14, 2014, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles informed Polaris they could not define the Slingshot as a motorcycle because it does not have a "rider's saddle" seat and Polaris could not sell them in Texas.

Polaris dealers across the state now have Slingshot models in their inventory that they are unable to sell because of the reversal of original authorization.

S.B. 449 allows three-wheeled vehicles with seats other than a "rider's saddle" to be classified as a motorcycle.

(Original Author's/Sponsor's Statement of Intent)

C.S.S.B. 449 amends current law relating to titling and registration of an autocycle.

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 Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Transportation Code, by adding Section 501.008, as follows;

Sec. 501.008. TITLE FOR AUTOCYCLE. (a) Defines, in this section, "autocycle" to mean a motor vehicle, other than a tractor, that is:

- (1) designed to have when propelled not more than three wheels on the ground;
- (2) equipped with a steering wheel;
- (3) equipped with seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride the seat; and
- (4) manufactured and certified to comply with federal safety requirements for a motorcycle.

(b) Provides that, for purposes of issuing a title under this chapter, an autocycle is considered to be a motorcycle.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 502, Transportation Code, by adding Section 502.004, as follows:

Sec. 502.004. REGISTRATION OF AUTOCYCLE. (a) Makes conforming changes regarding the definition of "autocycle."

(b) Provides that, for purposes of issuing a title under this chapter, an autocycle is considered to be a motorcycle.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2015.