

1 H.565

2 Introduced by Representative Brennan of Colchester

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; autocycles

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to:

7 (1) define the terms “autocycle” and “fully enclosed autocycle” and  
8 include them within the definition of motorcycle;

9 (2) exempt operators of autocycles from the requirement to obtain a  
10 motorcycle endorsement and all occupants of autocycles from the requirement  
11 to sit astride in the autocycle; and

12 (3) exempt the occupants of fully enclosed autocycles from the  
13 requirement to wear a helmet.

14 An act relating to autocycles

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

16 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 4(18) is amended to read:

17 (18)(A) “Motorcycle” shall mean any motor ~~driven~~ vehicle having a seat  
18 or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three  
19 wheels in contact with the ground, and shall include autocycles but ~~excluding~~  
20 exclude motor-driven cycles, golf carts, track driven vehicles, tractors, and

1 electric personal assistive mobility devices, ~~and vehicles on which the operator~~  
2 ~~and passengers ride within an enclosed cab, except that a vehicle which is fully~~  
3 ~~enclosed, has three wheels in contact with the ground, weighs less than 1,500~~  
4 ~~pounds, has the capacity to maintain posted highway speed limits, and which~~  
5 ~~uses electricity as its primary motive power shall be registered as a motorcycle~~  
6 ~~but the operator of such vehicle shall not be required to have a motorcycle~~  
7 ~~endorsement nor to comply with the provisions of section 1256 of this title~~  
8 ~~(motorcycles headgear) in the operation of such a vehicle.~~

9 (B) "Autocycle" means a three-wheeled motorcycle:

10 (i) in which the occupants sit with their legs forward;

11 (ii) designed to be controlled with a steering wheel and

12 pedals; and

13 (iii) equipped with safety belts for all occupants.

14 (C) "Fully enclosed autocycle" means an autocycle equipped with a  
15 windshield and that has full top and side enclosures capable of supporting the  
16 vehicle's weight and protecting the occupants when the vehicle is resting on  
17 the enclosures.

18 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:

19 § 601. LICENSE REQUIRED

20 \* \* \*

1        (f) Operators of autocycles shall be exempt from the requirements to obtain  
2        a motorcycle learner's permit or a motorcycle endorsement.

3        Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 1114(b) is amended to read:

4        (b) A person shall ride upon a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle only while  
5        sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on each side of the  
6        motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. The requirement of this subsection shall not  
7        apply to occupants of autocycles or of side-cars.

8        Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 1256 is amended to read:

9        § 1256. MOTORCYCLES—HEADGEAR

10       A person may not operate or ride upon a motorcycle upon a highway unless  
11       he or she properly wears protective headgear of a type that conforms to the  
12       federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards contained in 49 C.F.R. § 571.218 ~~and~~  
13       ~~any amendment or addition to the regulations that may be adopted by the U.S.~~  
14       ~~Secretary of Transportation, as may be amended.~~ The requirement of this  
15       section shall not apply to occupants of fully enclosed autocycles.

16       Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

17       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.