

Selected Vehicle Characteristics, Requirements, and Restriction in Maryland Law

(For illustration purposes only – consult Maryland Code for exact provisions)

August 2012

	Motorcycles	Motor Scooters	Mopeds	Bicycles	Motorized Minibikes, Pocket Bikes, etc
					
Defined as	Motorcycle	Motor Scooter	Bicycle	Bicycle	Motorized Minibike
Motor Vehicle?	Yes 11-135a	No 11-135b	No 11-135b	n/a	Yes 11-134.4
Defining Characteristics	Motive power, seat or saddle, no more than 3 wheels, designed for speeds > 35 mph, is a type that must comply w/ all m/c Fed Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 11-136	Seat, step-thru chassis, 2 wheels 1 wheel ≥ 10” ≤ 2.7hp or ≤ 50cc auto transmission Excludes off-road vehicles 11-134.5	2 or 3 wheels Pedals drive rear wheels, 1 wheel >14” ≤ 1.5hp or ≤ 50cc See Bicycle 11-134.1	Designed to be human powered 2 or 3 wheels, rear drive 1 > 14” 11-104	2 or 3 wheels not a motor scooter, moped, or farm tractor 11-134.4
Titling Required?	Yes	Yes, Effective October 1, 2012	Yes, Effective October 1, 2012	No	No
Registration Required?	Yes	Titling Decal Required to be affixed to the rear of the vehicle	Titling Decal Required to be affixed to the rear of the vehicle	No, but locals can 25-102a8	No See locals permits 25-102a 15 ³
Drv’s Lic Required?	Yes Class M	Drv License or Moped Oper Permit 16-101b	Drv License or Moped Oper Permit 16-101b	No	No
Helmet Required?	Yes 21-1306b	Yes, Effective October 1, 2012	Yes, Effective October 1, 2012	If < 16 yrs Also Locals 21-1207.1	No
Passenger Allowed?	If designed, & has seat & foot rests, for passenger 21-1302 & 1305	If designed, & has seat & foot rests, for pass 21-1203	If designed, & has seat, for passngr 21-1203	If designed, & has seat, for passenger 21-1203	
Liability Insurance Required	Yes	Yes, operator must provide proof of insurance upon stop	Yes, operator must provide proof of insurance upon stop	No	No
Allowed on Public Roads?	Yes, except if ≤ 1.5hp or < 70cc prohibited from control access hwy’s & where SL > 50 mph 21-1303.1	Not on expwy Not on roadway if SL > 50mph or a smooth shoulder or a bike lane, w/exceptions 21-1205.1	Same as for Motor Scooters	Same as for Motor Scooters ¹	No 13-401b
Road Position Requirements	Same as other MVs	Far right w/exceptions 21-1205	Far right w/exceptions 21-1205	Far right w/exceptions 21-1205	Not permitted on roadway
Allowed on Sidewalks?	No 21-1103a	No 21-1103a	No 21-1103a	By local ordinance 21-1103b	No 21-1103a
Allowed on Paths & Trails?	No 8-409e	No 8-409e	No 8-409h	Yes 8-409e	No 8-409i
Vehicle Equipment	21-1305 & Title 22	21-1207	21-1207	21-1207	
Other	Operator must sit astride the cycle 21-1302d	Max speed 30 mph 21-1205.1c			
Notes: Cited sections are from the Transportation Article ² EPAMD is an Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device ³ Motorized minibike not subject to registration; Local jurisdictions may require permits for them; Dealer must warn potential buyer that motorized minibikes cannot be operated on streets/highways and use elsewhere may be limited by local jurisdictions.					

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