

Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.

59th Assembly District



AB 371: E-Scooter Braille & Liability Protections for Pedestrians

SUMMARY

AB 371 ensures pedestrians are extended existing liability coverage if they are injured by a shared mobility device, such as an electronic scooter (e-scooter), whether in use or parked inappropriately.

This bill also requires the addition of braille and tactile signage with raised characters for pedestrians who are blind or have vision impairments.

BACKGROUND

As e-scooters become a more popular means of transportation, pedestrians face an increased risk of injury. Despite laws and e-scooter guidelines prohibiting otherwise, users continue to ride the devices on sidewalks and often fail to park them in areas recommended in the mobile app. Some e-device mobile apps even have users take pictures after their ride, however, pedestrians, especially those with vision impairments, continue to find devices obstructing their passageway.

E-scooters laying across the sidewalks, risk pedestrian injury, including those with disabilities, children, and senior citizens who are vulnerable to injury from falls. Improperly parked e-scooters pose a great danger to those who are blind. These individuals rely on clear walkways free of hindrance. Poorly placed devices left on sidewalks can also result in dangerous injuries to the pedestrians who are blind or have vision impairments.

Liability coverage is already afforded to users injured as result of operating e-scooters, but does not extend to accident victims. Other modes of transportation, such as Zipcar, ensure liability coverage for those injured by a user operating their devices. As e-scooters become a more heavily utilized means of transportation, existing insurance protection must be extended to pedestrians as well. Further, the City of Cincinnati requires at least \$10,000 coverage per pedestrian injury due to e-scooters, confirming the insurance product.

Finally, e-scooters, currently, have the QR code, used to scan and rent the device, as well as the device provider's name and logo. The absence of braille or tactile signage with raised characters, however, prevents individuals who are blind or have vision impairments from accessing information about the e-device company in the event of an accident resulting from negligence.

THIS BILL

AB 371 will specify existing permits or agreements for shared mobility devices will include existing liability coverage for a pedestrian injured by an e-scooter due to negligent conduct.

AB 371 will also require braille and tactile signage with raised characters to be added to each device, thus enabling pedestrians who are blind or have vision impairments to identify the device provider and necessary contact information to file a report.

SUPPORT

California Council of the Blind (Sponsor)
Association of California State Employees with Disabilities
Association of Regional Center Agencies
California Council of Citizens with Low Vision
California Disability-Senior Community Action Network
California Insurance Wholesalers Association
California Walks
Consumer Attorneys of California
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Guide Dogs for the Blind
Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Safe Walkways
Surplus Line Association of California

CAPITOL OFFICE
SWING SPACE, SUITE 5210
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL: 916.319.2059
FAX: 916-319-2159

DISTRICT OFFICE
700 EXPOSITION PARK DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90037
TEL: 213.744.2111
FAX: 213.744.2122

CONTACT

Natalia Garcia ♦ Legislative Assistant
(916) 319-2059 ♦ Natalia.Garcia@asm.ca.gov