

BILL NO. BL2018-1203 (ROSENBERG) – This ordinance, as substituted, would amend Metro Code of Laws Title 12 by defining types of scooters, amending operating requirements, and modifying certain other requirements.

This ordinance would first establish definitions for “motorized” and “non-motorized” scooters, with the former defined as a device with front and rear wheels with a footboard between, steered by a handlebar and propelled with aid of a motor or other non-manual propulsion device. “Non-motorized scooters” would be similarly defined, but propelled without the aid of a motor or other propulsion device. The definition for “business district” would be updated to match the definition in state law and the recently adopted Ordinance No. BL2018-1202 regarding shared urban mobility devices.

The regulations in this ordinance would apply to scooters, roller skates, and in-line skates not governed under BL2018-1202. Motorized scooters could be operated upon sidewalks, except within a “business district”, defined as territory next to a highway in which, along any 600 feet of frontage, there are buildings for business or industrial uses occupying at least 300 feet. Non-motorized scooters, in-line skates, or roller skates could be operated on sidewalks, except within a “Central Business Improvement District.” Under state law, “central business improvement districts” consist of areas designated by municipalities to provide for additional services and improvements, typically through additional tax assessments and bond issuances. (Tenn. Code Ann. §7-84-501, et seq.) In Davidson County, such districts have been established in downtown, the Gulch area, and South Nashville.

Under current Metro law, operators of scooters, in-line skates, and roller skates must wear an approved helmet, as well as wrist guards, elbow pads, and kneepads. This ordinance would remove those requirements but keep an existing provision regulating lamps and reflectors required for scooters, in-line skates, and roller-skates.