

ORDINANCE

AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF
THE CITY OF BATON ROUGE AND PARISH
OF EAST BATON ROUGE, TITLE 11
(TRAFFIC), SO AS TO ADD CHAPTER 19
(ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED SCOOTERS).

BE IT ORDAINED by the Metropolitan Council of the City
of Baton Rouge and the Parish of East Baton Rouge that:

Section 1. Title 11 (Traffic) of the Code of Ordinances
of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge is
hereby amended to add Chapter 19 (Electric Low-Speed Scooters),
as follows:

"CHAPTER 19. - ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED SCOOTERS.

Section 11:210. - Definition.

For purposes of this Section, the term "electric low-speed scooter" shall mean a scooter weighing less than one hundred pounds that has handlebars and an electric motor, is solely powered by an electric motor or human power, and has a maximum speed of not more than fifteen miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by an electric motor. An electric low-speed scooter shall not be considered a motor-driven cycle, a vehicle, or a motor vehicle.

Section 11:211. - Riding on electric low-speed scooters.

No electric low-speed scooter shall be used to carry more than one person at one time.

Section 11:212. - Clinging to vehicles.

No person operating an electric low-speed scooter shall attach himself or the scooter to any other vehicle being operated upon a highway.

Section 11:213. - Carrying articles.

No person operating an electric low-speed scooter on a roadway shall carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping both hands on its handlebars.

Section 11:214. - Riding on roadways; exceptions.

(a) Every person operating an electric low-speed scooter upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, using bicycle lanes when possible, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or a vehicle proceeding in the same direction, except under any of the following circumstances:

(1) When overtaking and passing another electric low-speed scooter, bicycle, or vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

(2) When preparing to turn or turning left at an intersection, or into a private road or driveway.

(3) When reasonably necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, substandard width lanes, or any other condition that makes it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. For purposes of this Paragraph, a "substandard width lane" is a lane that is too narrow for an electric low-speed scooter and another electric low-speed scooter, bicycle, or a vehicle to travel safely side-by-side within the lane.

(b) The operator of a motor vehicle, when overtaking and passing an electric low-speed scooter proceeding in the same direction on the roadway, shall exercise due care when the motor vehicle is passing the electric low-speed scooter, and shall leave a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the electric low-speed scooter of not less than three feet, and shall maintain such safe distance until safely past the overtaken electric low-speed scooter. The operator of a motor vehicle may pass an electric low-speed scooter traveling in the same direction in a no-passing zone only when it is safe to do so.

Section 11:215. - Equipment.

(a) An electric low-speed scooter shall be equipped with a brake that enables the operator to make its braked wheels skid on dry, level, and clean pavements.

(b) An electric low-speed scooter, when in use during the times specified in R.S. 32:301, shall be equipped with appropriate lights, reflectors, or reflective markings. The device shall be visible from all distances from fifty (50) feet to five hundred (500) feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps of a motor vehicle.

(c) Any operator of an electric low-speed scooter under the age of seventeen years shall wear an approved helmet as provided in R.S. 32:199.

Section 11:216. - Parking.

No person shall park an electric low-speed scooter upon a street or upon the sidewalk in such manner to obstruct pedestrian traffic.

Section 11:217. - Speed.

No person shall operate an electric low-speed scooter at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by an electric motor. The city-parish may further limit the speed of electric low-speed scooters through geofencing or other means to preserve user safety, maintain pre-existing

traffic conditions or traffic flow, or otherwise maintain quality-of-life in areas that may be disrupted by shared mobility devices traveling at greater speeds.

Section 11:218. - Penalties.

(a) Every person over the age of seventeen (17) years convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) or by imprisonment for not more than five (5) days.

(b) Persons seventeen (17) years of age and under in violation of any provisions of this chapter may be charged before the family court of the parish."

Section 2. This ordinance shall be effective 60 days following adoption by the Metropolitan Council.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or portion of this ordinance, or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.