

Defining Autocycles; Omega Psi Phi License Plate; HB 2044

HB 2044 establishes the definition and requirements for “autocycles” and creates the Omega Psi Phi distinctive license plate.

Autocycles

The bill establishes the definition for “autocycle” as a three-wheel motorcycle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride it. The bill exempts persons under the age of 18 years from requirements otherwise applicable to motorcycle use to wear a helmet and eye-protective devices while riding in or operating an autocycle. Class M motor vehicles will not include autocycles for driver’s license purposes.

The bill requires each occupant age 14 years and older of an autocycle manufactured with seat belts to have a seat belt properly fastened around the person’s body when the vehicle is in motion. The bill also requires a child younger than 14 years to be properly restrained within an autocycle as the child would be in a passenger car. Failure to properly restrain a child in an autocycle as required will be a violation of the Child Passenger Safety Act.

Omega Psi Phi License Plate

The bill authorizes the Omega Psi Phi distinctive license plate. Any owner or lessee of one or more passenger vehicles or trucks registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less may apply for the new plate on and after January 1, 2016, after paying annual vehicle registration fees and a logo use royalty fee between \$25 and \$100 to Omega Psi Phi. The bill requires Omega Psi Phi to design and pay the initial cost of silk-screening for the license plates. Payments from the Omega Psi Phi royalty fund will be made on a monthly basis to the appropriate designee of Omega Psi Phi.