

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Marc Bedard  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division

**FROM:** Kevin Byrnes  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Road User Safety Division

**SUBJECT:** **New Pilot Project Regulation under the Highway Traffic Act to Permit Electric Kick-Style Scooters (also known as E-Scooters) on Ontario's Roads**

---

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the policing community across the province about a new 5-year pilot program that allows e-scooters on road subject to a municipal by-law.

Effective January 1, 2020, a new pilot regulation made under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), [O. Reg.389/19: Pilot Project - Electric Kick-Scooters](#) establishes a pilot project to allow the use of electric kick-style scooters (e-scooters) on Ontario's roads (see Attachment for Regulation).

Under the pilot, the province has set out the broad rules and requirements for e-scooters such as helmet requirements and minimum age. It is now up to the municipalities to pass by-laws and develop operating parameters for e-scooter companies and riders to allow their use and determine where they can operate most safely in their municipality.

Municipalities should clearly define where e-scooters can park (e.g. setting up designated parking locations). The regulation also requires that e-scooters should not be left in a location that is intended for the passage of vehicles and pedestrians. This will help prevent them from being left on the road and sidewalk obstructing traffic or being a nuisance to road users.

The pilot is intended to assess these vehicles over a period of five years in order to examine their ability to safely integrate with other vehicle types and road users.

The authority to conduct such pilot projects is provided under section 228 of the HTA. This pilot authority has been used previously for e-bike, segway, three-wheeled vehicles, low speed vehicles and autonomous vehicle pilots.

#### **Pilot Project Framework – effective January 1, 2020**

- 5-year pilot;
- Permitted by municipal by-law;
- Minimum operating age 16;

- Maximum power output 500W and can provide a maximum speed of 24 km/h;
- Maximum weight 45kg;
- No passengers allowed;
- No baskets allowed;
- Bicycle helmet required for those under 18 years old;
- No pedals or seat allowed;
- Must have 2 wheels;
- Must have horn or bell;
- Must have one white light on front, one red light on rear and reflective material on sides;
- Must have brakes: on both wheels if tire diameter is greater than 150 mm, otherwise, must have a brake on at least one wheel;
- Maximum wheel diameter 17 inches;
- All HTA rules of the road will apply to the operation of e-scooters similar to bicycles;
- Not allowed on controlled access highways.

Anyone that contravenes the conditions of the pilot can be charged under HTA s. 228(8), which states that every person who contravenes a pilot regulation is liable to a fine of not less than \$250 and not more than \$2,500, on conviction. All other existing HTA rules of the road and penalties also apply to the operation of e-scooters.

I would ask that you please bring this memorandum to the attention of the appropriate members of your service. If members of the law enforcement community would like to discuss these changes, they may contact Ryan Bailey at 416 894-7910 or [ryan.bailey@ontario.ca](mailto:ryan.bailey@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your assistance in communicating this change.



Kevin Byrnes  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Road User Safety Division

Attachment: Highway Traffic Act Regulation [389/19: Pilot Project - Electric Kick-Scooters](#)