

SUBJECT: Requiring a study of shared motor-assisted scooters

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Canales, Landgraf, Bernal, Y. Davis, Goldman, Hefner, Krause, Leman, Martinez, Raney, Thierry, E. Thompson

0 nays

1 absent — Ortega

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Billy Phenix, AAA Texas; Jason Sabo, OjO Scooter; Robyn Ross)

Against — None

On — Greg Griffin, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

DIGEST: CSHB 2715 would require the Texas Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute or other institutions of higher education, local governments, or industry representatives, to conduct a study on the use of shared motor-assisted scooters.

The study would examine:

- the legal definition and existing local regulation of shared motor-assisted scooters;
- liability issues related to shared motor-assisted scooter use and accidents;
- the operation of shared motor-assisted scooters, including safety standards, interaction with pedestrians, shared infrastructure, and operator qualifications;
- the economic impact of shared motor-assisted scooters, including any benefits and burdens for local governments;

- the accessibility of motor-assisted scooters;
- shared motor-assisted scooters' impact on public transportation;
- the social norms of shared motor-assisted scooter use, including shared motor-assisted scooter etiquette; and
- how shared motor-assisted scooter scooters have been and could be integrated into the overall transportation system.

The Texas Department of Transportation would be required to submit the findings of this study to the Legislature by December 1, 2020. The bill's provisions would expire January 1, 2021.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.