HB 592 -- PERSONAL DELIVERY DEVICES (Fitzwater)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Emerging Issues

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 592.

This bill sets out the requirements for and prohibitions against the operation and use of a personal delivery device.

A "personal delivery device" is defined as a powered device operated primarily on sidewalks and crosswalks and intended primarily for the transport of property on public rights-of-way, and is capable of navigating with or without the active control or monitoring of a natural person.

The bill allows a personal delivery device to operate on any county or municipal sidewalk, crosswalk or roadway as long as the device does not interfere with motor vehicles, traffic, or block a public right-of-way. A personal delivery device shall have all of the rights and responsibilities as a pedestrian, must display a unique identifying number, and be equipped to identify the personal delivery device operator. When operating on a sidewalk or crosswalk the device's maximum speed is 10 miles per hour and must be equipped with front and rear lighting.

The bill requires each personal delivery device operator to maintain a general liability coverage insurance policy of at least $100,000 for damages arising from the combined operations of personal delivery devices under a personal delivery device operator's control.

A personal delivery device shall not transport hazardous material as specified in the bill.

The bill does not restrict a local government from regulating the use of personal delivery devices on highways or pedestrian areas.

The bill also prevents a personal delivery device operator from selling or disclosing a personally identifiable likeness, as defined in the bill, to a third party for monetary compensation. The operator may use a personally identifiable likeness to improve products or services. The likeness may also be disclosed to law enforcement with a lawful subpoena.

This bill is similar to HB 2290 (2020).