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**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Mopeds, Motor Scooters, Pocket Bikes and ATV's**

As these devices have grown in popularity over the past few years, the Anne Arundel County Police Department would like to educate citizens and consumers on the laws regarding Mopeds, Motor Scooters, Pocket Bikes, Toy Scooters and ATV's.

**Legal Mopeds / Motor Scooters**

**Question:** What is an example of a legal "moped / motor scooter" that is permitted to be on the road?

**Answer:** Two examples of a "moped / motor scooter" that meet the definition as defined in Transportation Article 11-134.4 are pictured below. These are "mopeds / motor scooters" that you would most likely find at a motorcycle shop. They usually cost at least \$1,500 dollars. They have a seat for the operator, and they have two wheels, of which one is 10 inches or more in diameter. They have a step-through chassis, a motor with a rating of 2.7 brake horsepower or less or an internal combustion engine with a capacity of 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement or less. If they are 50 cc's or less, they do not require tags. The driver **must** have a valid driver's license of any class from any state or country in which they reside, or have a moped operator's permit issued by the Maryland MVA. Additionally, they do not require a helmet, cannot be operated on a roadway with a speed limit of more than 50 miles per hour and cannot be operated in excess of 30 miles per hour.



## Pocket Bikes / Toy Scooters

**Question:** Is a gas or electric motorized pocket bike / toy scooter (as pictured below) a "motor vehicle" as defined by Maryland Motor Vehicle Law?



**Answer:** YES, they are "motor vehicles" as defined in 11-135 and are subject to the laws as motor vehicles.

Vehicles popularly known as pocket bikes, mini-cycles, or mini-Harleys, do not have the characteristics of legal mopeds / motor scooters. The motorized toy scooters clearly do not meet the definition of a "moped." They also do not meet the definition of a "motor scooter." None of the styles pictured above have a wheel that is 10 inches or more in diameter. Additionally, the models that look like mini-motorcycles do not have a step-through chassis. Because they are self-propelled and do not meet the exceptions, they are "motor vehicles" as defined by the law and subject to the laws accordingly. Please keep in mind that *The Maryland Vehicle Law* could not possibly list every type of vehicle produced. *The Maryland Vehicle Law* addresses which "motor vehicles" are approved for use on the roadway and everything else by default is not approved. These vehicles do not fit the description of a motor vehicle, and they cannot be registered and insured.

Since they meet no legal requirements, they cannot be operated on public sidewalks, public roads, streets or highways. They can **only** be operated on private property, and **only** with the property owner's written permission.

## ATV's



All terrain vehicles (ATV's) are for use on private property **only**, with the permission of the owner/agent. They **cannot** be operated on public sidewalks, public roads, streets or highways.

The following are a list of MD Transportation Article Charges that one could face if observed operating a Moped, Motor Scooter, Pocket Bike, Toy Scooter or ATV contrarily to the law.

- 13 402 a1 - Driving unregistered (motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer) on highway - **\$275.00 fine.**
- 16 101 a - (Driving, Attempting to drive) motor vehicle on highway without required license and authorization - **\$315.00 fine.**
- 16 101 b - Operating a (moped, motor scooter) on highway without required license or permit - **\$315.00 fine.**
- 16 304 a - Causing (child, ward) under age 15 to drive motor vehicle on highway **\$275.00 fine.**
- 16 304 b - Knowingly permitting (child, ward) under 15 to drive motor vehicle on highway - **\$275.00 fine.**
- 21 1103 a - Driving vehicle on sidewalk and sidewalk area where prohibited - **\$55.00 fine.**
- 21 1201 a - (Parent, Guardian) authorizing (minor, ward) to violate (bicycle, play vehicle, motor scooter) laws - **\$35.00 fine.**
- 21 1201 b - (Parent, Guardian) knowingly permitting (minor, ward) to violate (bicycle, play vehicle, motor scooter) laws - **\$35.00 fine.**
- 21 1205 1 a - Riding (bicycle, motor scooter) on (roadway with maximum posted speed above 50 mph, expressway, controlled access highway) - **\$35.00 fine.**
- 21 1205.1 b 1 - Riding (bicycle, motor scooter) on roadway where smooth (bike lane, shoulder) available - **\$35.00 fine.**

Please feel free to contact the Anne Arundel County Police Department's Traffic Safety Section @ 410-222-8573, or your District Station's Traffic Officer with any questions or concerns.

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