

(H. B. 1353)
(Conference)

(No. 28-2015)

(Approved March 12, 2015)

AN ACT

To amend subsection (c) of Section 9.03 and Section 10.24 of Act No. 22-2000, known as the “Puerto Rico Vehicle and Traffic Act,” in order to add a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250)-fine to be imposed on any driver who operates an auto cycle, a scooter, a motorcycle, or any other motor vehicle in public structures, namely footbridges and sidewalks.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The main public interest sought by Section 9.03 of Act No. 22-2000 is to ensure the safety of pedestrians who use public structures in the streets. However, we have become aware of the situation that there are drivers who negligently use footbridges while operating auto cycles, scooters, motorcycles, or any other similar transportation medium. Such action poses a risk to the safety of pedestrians and persons with disabilities who use public structures such as footbridges to arrive at their destinations.

At the meetings of the Community Safety Council, composed of the Dos Pinos, Los Maestros, Villa Granada, and Dos Pinos Townhouses residential developments, we have learned that residents of Sector 160 have organized through its community leaders and have come to an agreement during meetings held in conjunction with the San Juan Police and the San Juan Municipal Police for an action plan to address this situation. This situation of using this type of vehicles on public bridges that are strictly for the use of pedestrians is currently happening in the footbridge connecting the Manual A. Pérez public housing project with Los Maestros residential development in Río Piedras.

For such purposes, we have been informed that Act No. 22-2000, known as the “Puerto Rico Vehicle and Traffic Act,” as of today does not provide penalties for such action. In view of these claims, and because it is important to ensure the safety of pedestrians and persons with disabilities in the Island, it is imperative to amend subsection (c) of Section 9.03 of said Act in order to prevent the use of auto cycles, scooters, motorcycles, or any other similar transportation medium. Furthermore, Section 10.24 is hereby amended to increase to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) the fine imposed on any person who operates a vehicle or motor vehicle on a sidewalk.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Subsection (c) of Section 9.03 of Act No. 22-2000, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“c) Take the proper precautions so as not to injure any pedestrian, with special precautions when the pedestrians are children, or elderly or disabled persons. These precautions shall be taken even when the pedestrian is improperly or illegally using the public road. The use of the horn, alone, shall not relieve the driver from liability if other safety measures are not taken.

Every driver who violates this Section when driving on a public road shall be subject to an administrative fault and shall be punished by a fine in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50). Likewise, no driver shall operate an auto cycle, scooter, motorcycle, or any other motor vehicle on public structures such as footbridges. Any driver who operates an auto cycle, a scooter, a motorcycle, or any other motor vehicle on footbridges shall be punished by a fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). No vehicle shall be operated through or on a safety zone at any time.”

[sic] Section 10.24 of Act No. 22-2000, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 10.24.- Driving on the Sidewalk

No person shall drive a vehicle or motor vehicle on a sidewalk except on a duly authorized permanent or temporary entrance for vehicles.

Any driver who violates the provisions of this Section shall be guilty of an administrative fault and punished by a fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).”

Section 2.- The provisions amended herein shall not be understood as to punish any person with disabilities who operates a motor wheelchair on public structures such as footbridges. Likewise, any person using a bicycle shall be excluded from the application of the provisions of this Act, provided that he/she is not riding it.

Section 3.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 28-2015 (H. B. 1353) (Conference)** of the **5th Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to amend subsection (c) of Section 9.03 and Section 10.24 of Act No. 22-2000, known as the "Puerto Rico Vehicle and Traffic Act," in order to add a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250)-fine to be imposed on any driver who operates an auto cycle, a scooter, a motorcycle, or any other motor vehicle in public structures, namely footbridges and sidewalks.

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 12th day of February, 2016.

Juan Luis Martínez Martínez
Director